

# GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?

## Last Week's Message

In a courtroom, the goal is to find out the truth. In life, we too want to know what's true, but the question is: can we handle it? The wonderful thing about the Bible is that when it comes to bad news, we also see the good news of the gospel, as Jesus Himself was described as full of grace and truth. But are we guilty or not guilty under God's laws?

### Judgment Day (Romans 2:5-13)

Our salvation is by faith, but the judgment of believers will be according to deeds. We are saved by faith, not by works. Our good works is not a means to salvation, rather is it an outflow or the evidence of our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10). The reality is that we cannot stand before God or enter heaven on account of our goodness. In Romans 2:11-13, Paul was addressing both the Jews and the Gentiles. Paul addressed the Gentiles as those "without the law". In today's context, they are whom we call "moralists". The Gentiles are those who live by their conscience, not the Bible; while the Jews are those who are "under the law". In today's context, they are those whom we perceive as the "religious" ones. Their defense is in how they faithfully practice their religion.

### Defense #1: "I live a good life!" (Romans 2:14-16)

The Gentiles are those who instinctively live a good and moral life. Their basis for their actions is their conscience, but does having a good conscience bring us to heaven? The dictionary definition for conscience is "an inner feeling or voice viewed as acting as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of one's behavior." HELP Word Studies defined conscience as "a spiritual or moral consciousness that is a result of having been created in God's image, and therefore unique to human beings." If we were to be judged by our conscience, we will be accountable for two things: first, if we knew what was right or wrong; and secondly, if we did what was right after knowing what was right and wrong. In most cases, we would fail.

### Defense #2: "I practice my religion!" (Romans 2:17-29)

Paul reminds us that our religiosity is not the basis for salvation. If following the Law would be the basis of our salvation then we should be able to follow it perfectly all the time, to which we are sure to fall short. In Romans 2:25-27, Paul talks about circumcision which was sacred to the Jews. Paul said that if they were only focused on the outward act of circumcision, they were missing the point! In the Old Testament, God says that He will circumcise the hearts of His people — the outward ceremony is just a symbol of an inward transformation that can only take place in a personal relationship with God. We know that change has taken place in our hearts by the Holy Spirit when we no longer seek the praise of men but the approval of God.

### The Mercy of the Court

We are all guilty and our only recourse is to throw ourselves at the mercy of the court (Romans 3:9). We need to fall and plead for God's mercy for regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4-5). How did God set this in motion for us? In a courtroom 2,000 years ago, Pilate released Barabbas, and Jesus went to the cross (Matthew 27:26). He took the sin of Barabbas to the cross, the same way that He also took your sin and mine to the cross. Because of Christ's sacrifice, we are now declared not guilty (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Today, if you are a follower of Christ, be humble. Don't look down on others and remember that you are saved only by grace. Go the extra mile and tell others about Jesus. And if you're not yet a follower of Christ, stop making excuses and stop relying on your morals and religion for salvation. Take that step of faith today and surrender your life to Jesus Christ.

## discussion questions

On what / who are you relying to go to heaven? Why? Briefly share your salvation testimony. What was your life like before you accepted Christ? What was your turning point? What changed in you after giving your life to Christ? Who will you tell Jesus about this week?

## last week's memory verse

For there is no partiality with God. For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law

ROMANS 2:11-12

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LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

## God brought you here for His purpose.

## Step into the COMMUNITY!

Fellowship and learn together with believers at the same lifestyle as you!

### Women2Women

All Women

Nuggets from Romans 2:6 and 3:9  
July 14, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

**ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE**

 ccfwomen2women  
 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

### BIG Ministry

Singles

Truth Speaks (Apologetics Series)

New Series starts July 15, Friday  
7:30 PM, MPH

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 B1GMinistry  
 beonewithgod

### Elevate

High School and College

Unashamed

July 16, Saturday, 4:00 PM, MPH

**ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE**

 ElevateMain  
 ElevateMainTV

### NXTGEN

Kids from 4-12 years old

Kids' Church

The Big Roadblock:

A Series on the Book of Romans

Sundays, 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM

G/F North Wing, CCF Center

**ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE**

 ccfnxtgen for ages 4-12  
zoom for ages 7-12

Join an online small group for kids!

Contact the NXTGEN team:

   ccfnxtgen

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Grow deeper in your spiritual walk and join Bible study classes by GLC.

### GLC

GLC 1 Zoom class starts July 13!

Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Register at [go.ccf.org.ph/glc1zoom](http://go.ccf.org.ph/glc1zoom)

#### Book 1: One by One

Session 1: One Truth (The Gospel)  
with Paul de Vera

#### Book 3: The Holy Spirit

Session 1: Who is the Holy Spirit?  
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## Step up and VOLUNTEER!

There's no better way to serve God than to serve His people!

### in NXTGEN

Contact the NXTGEN team:

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### 1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments  
—Deuteronomy 7:9*

### 2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

*Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence.  
— Romans 3:23*

### 3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.  
— Romans 5:8*

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. — John 14:6*

### 4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. — John 3:16*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9*

### 5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

*And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13*

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