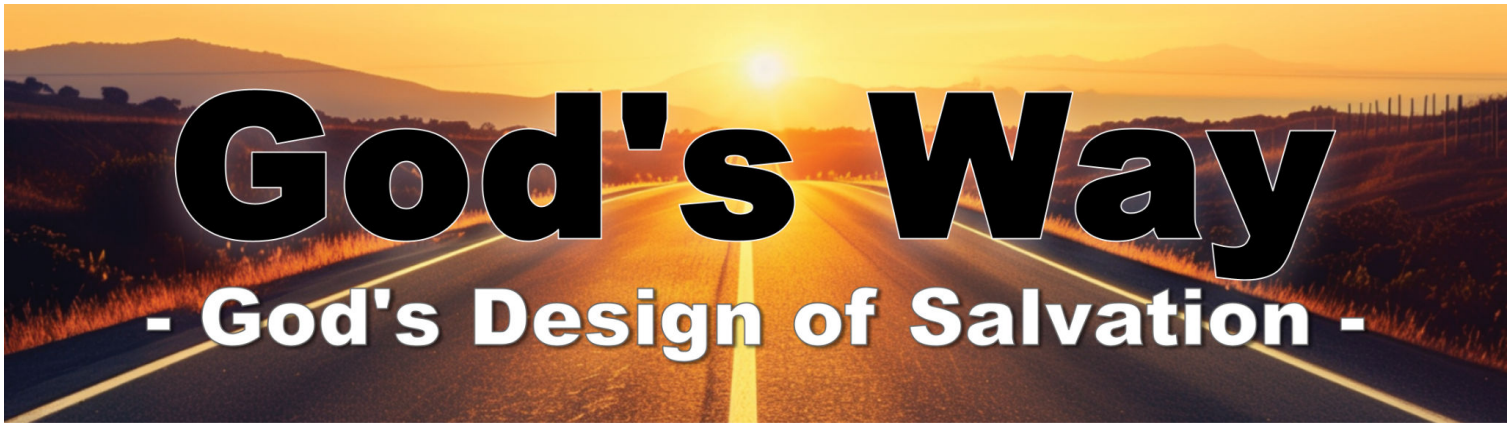


Week of June 21, 2026 - Don't You Teach Yourself? Small Group Lesson 6

Connect

Think of a time when a single employee's bad attitude or mistake made you vow never to return to a certain store or restaurant. Why is it so easy for us to judge an entire brand or company based on the actions of just one representative?

Verses - Romans 2:17-24 (CSB)

Read aloud:

17 Now if you call yourself a Jew, and rely on the law, and boast in God, 18 and know his will, and approve the things that are superior, being instructed from the law, 19 and if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light to those in darkness, 20 an instructor of the ignorant, a teacher of the immature, having the embodiment of knowledge and truth in the law — 21 you then, who teach another, don't you teach yourself? You who preach, "You must not steal" — do you steal? 22 You who say, "You must not commit adultery" — do you commit adultery? You who detest idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 For, as it is written: The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. According to vv.17-20, what are the specific things the Jews prided themselves on? Because they had the Law and special knowledge, what roles did they have?

2. In vv.21-23, Paul asks a series of pointed questions. What is the main contradiction he is pointing out between what they teach and how they live? According to vv.23, what is the ultimate result of this contradiction?

3. v.24 states, *The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you*. Based on the context of the previous verses, why were the Gentiles mocking or dishonoring God's name?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi noted that we easily accept the Bible when it agrees with us, but we often make exceptions when it contradicts our desires (like King Ahab ignoring the prophet). Since we know sanctification comes by yielding to the indwelling Spirit rather than our flesh, how does surrendering to the Spirit help us obey the Lord even when our desires strongly pull us the other way?

Discuss 2:
The Jews relied heavily on having the written Law (Torah) but failed to actually keep it. Pastor Takeshi's story about getting angry at Mega-Don Quijote shows that even when we genuinely want to obey, our willpower fails us. Trying to achieve holiness through human grit and rule-following only leads to burnout, pride, or despair. How does this realization free us from the pressure of "trying harder," and what does it teach us about our daily need for the Gospel?

Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing specific prayer requests.