

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – April 23, 2023**

**Theme:** The Power of God at work in us **Topic:** Obedience – the essence of the law.

**Main Texts:** Romans 2:1-29

**Key verse:** Romans 2:13 – “For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.” (NIV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** In our study and sermon of last Sunday, we heard about the many sins that people who have turned away from God involved themselves in (Romans 1: 18-28). In our study today, we look at the subject of obedience and the Law. Our text opens with a warning to anyone who may read all that had been said about the godless and may be tempted to think themselves better than those. (Romans 2:1-3). In other words, the self-righteous and the godless are no different, whether they be Jews or Gentiles. God does not show partiality in this. Reading, hearing, studying, and teaching the word of God without obeying it personally will not get us anywhere with God (Romans 2:13).

**1. (a) Romans 2:13 says “it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.” What do you understand from this verse in relation to the topic? (b) What implications does it hold for believers? See also Matthew 7:21,24.**

We see that God shows no partiality (Romans 2: 12-15). Those who sinned under the law are judged under the law, and those who sinned apart from the law, get their due recompense apart from the law too. Turning from this, the word of God turns our attention to something that is almost gone unnoticed, but which was equally disheartening to God – the Jews who took pride in being Jews, in having the Law, in knowing what God wants, in being God’s special people. Some felt they knew all about how God should be worshipped and would be happy to instruct any who might be interested. But unfortunately, ‘people of other nations insult God because of you.’ (Romans 2:24 ERV)

**2. Read Romans 12: 24 (a) The Jews who took pride in being Jews and having the Law and being God’s special people are comparable to those who call themselves Christians simply by being born into Christian homes, or by being members of a Church like VFC, who know a thing or two about Scriptures. In what ways is God’s name being blasphemed because of such ‘Christians’? And why are such ‘Christians’ a blasphemy to the name of God? (b) How does this help put the idea of ‘Circumcision being of value if one obeyed the law...’ in proper perspective? (c) Was there a time when you thought of yourself as a Christian just because you attended church, or you were a registered member of one? How did you remedy that situation?**

To be a Christian is not by association; neither is it by observing any of the Church ceremonies like baptism. It is by having one’s heart circumcised by the Spirit of God. This happens when one accepts God’s gift of salvation and pardon through faith in Christ alone. While salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, our actions (obedience to the word of God) do matter. That is why nominal Christianity has been giving the unbelieving world tons of mud to sling at God (blaspheme God’s Name). And that is why the Church is lacking in influence in society. As someone has said, ‘For he is no more a Christian now, than he was really a Jew of old, who is only one outwardly: neither is that baptism, which is outward in the flesh: but he is the real Christian, who is inwardly a true believer, with an obedient faith. And the true baptism is that of the heart, by the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Ghost, bringing a spiritual frame of mind, and a willing following of truth in its holy ways.’ But obedience must be properly understood for a believer to have a joyous relationship with Jesus Christ.

**3. (a) Romans 2:17 speaks about those who rely on the law. Why is depending on keeping the laws dangerous? (b) How do you advise a Christian whose hope for salvation is through his or her good works, keeping the law, and other religious observances? (c) What is the assurance for believers in the fact that on the last Day, God will judge all men through Jesus Christ?**

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**Prayer:** God Almighty, we pray that we be Christians whose hearts have been circumcised by Your Holy Spirit, and who walk in obedience to Your word, trusting only in the finished work of Jesus Christ, so that our praise will be from You alone. In Jesus’ Name, amen.