

# The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

10/22/17

**Text: Romans 2:1-5 (ESV)**

**Title: The Gospel to the Religious**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

*Tim continued our series in the book of Romans looking at the beginning of chapter 2, and the “Gospel to the Religious.” Paul finished chapter 1, writing about the debased and broken nature of the “scandalous” sinners, he now moves on to speak to those who would consider themselves morally upright and religious, similar to the older brother in the parable of the “prodigal son”. Those of us who are successful and moral will often think we don’t have as much to repent or be forgiven of. The truth is we are not only just as guilty and in need of mercy as “those other sinners,” but we despise God’s mercy by judging the sinful and living as if theirs is a different kind of sin than ours. What we need is for God’s Spirit to reveal to us the sheer depths of our sin and need, and then we can truly enjoy and offer the kind of forgiveness, mercy and love that Jesus offers us.*

## **Reflection Questions:**

- 1. Tim said we live in a world of standards (measurements, expectations, morality...etc.) and we judge things and people based on our standards. And yet, we insist on not being judged for who we are. We can’t escape our tendencies to make moral evaluations, but we begin to condemn others when we use those evaluations to declare that people are “less,” are “out,” or are “done.”*
  - What groups or kinds of people do you never feel good enough to be around? (Who are the self-righteous around you?)**
  - What people are the easiest for you to judge or be critical of? (When are you most likely to be self-righteous?)**
- 2. Often we can live as if we don’t need forgiveness because we don’t do anything THAT bad. We hear about the scandalous sinners mentioned in Romans 1, and think our sin is a different (and less severe) kind of sin, rather than simply a different degree of sin.*
  - What kinds of sin or brokenness are the hardest for you to identify with?**
  - Read Matt. 5:21-22 & 27-28, How could you see your sin as different in “degree” rather than different in “kind?”**
- 3. Read **Luke 7:36-47***
  - Who (or what kinds of people) have you been unwilling to forgive?**
  - What areas of sin do you need Holy Spirit to reveal in you to help you to forgive?**

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## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER:**

### **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your discussion.)*

#### **1. ADORATION (The Father)**

***Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions***

#### **2. CONFESSION (Me)**

***Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited***

#### **3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)**

***Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)***

#### **4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)**

***Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways***

## **MISSION**

### **Prepare for Gospel Community:**

***Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.***