

5. How does God break through our quest for fulfilling our desires?

6. Is your story more like the younger son or the older son in the parable of the prodigals?

7. Spend some time in your small group praying for friends and family who need to respond to the gospel.

**The Gospel Journey Back to God  
(A Series on Romans 1–4)**

“Dismantling the 3 Primary Barriers to Taking the Gospel Journey”  
Romans 2:1 – 3:8

The Gospel is more than a description or doctrine of salvation. The gospel is the story of God seeking to renew and restore his entire creation after humanity, the ones made in God’s image, and therefore the caretakers of creation, have \_\_\_\_\_ their Creator.

What makes it so tragic is that our Creator God designed us to live in love and harmony with him and with each other, as we tend and cultivate and manage his creation, and our rebellion has \_\_\_\_\_ the entire creation.

The journey back to God is one step—a step of \_\_\_\_\_ in what God has made possible through Christ.

**The 3 Primary Barriers to Taking the Gospel Journey**

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 1:18-32)

2. M \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 2:1-16)

If you’ve been listening to this list of terrible things THEY do and now he says YOU do the same things, you’d have to \_\_\_\_\_ the list, wouldn’t you?

Red Sins = those horrible things THOSE people do

Green Sins = those sins that are not that bad, stuff I may need to work on

Blue Sins = those sins that are located in our hearts and minds and EXPRESSED in our hearts and minds.

Paul is leveling the playing field, explaining why everyone needs the \_\_\_\_\_.

Moralism keeps us from turning from our sin and putting our faith in God's solution to our sin because we don't see the very real need for God's solution or how it applies to us \_\_\_\_\_.

3. R\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 2:17 – 3:8)

We put our trust in Christianity and fail to put our trust in Christ \_\_\_\_\_.

These chapters are essentially an \_\_\_\_\_ of two of Jesus' parables—the Parable of Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14) and the Parable of the Prodigal Sons (Luke 15).

### Call To Action

- If the barrier is just immorality, maybe it requires coming to an \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves.
- The best way to dismantle the barrier of moralism and religiosity is to look at God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Philippians 3: <sup>4</sup> ...If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, **FAULTLESS**. <sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. **I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.**

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Romans 1:18 – 2:16. How does looking at the list of sins in Romans 1:18-32 from the "blue" angle help you see the problem with moralism?
3. When in your life did you start becoming aware of the problem of a moralistic form of Christianity?
4. Read Romans 2:17 – 3:8. How might it be possible to put your faith in Christianity and fail to trust in Christ alone for your salvation?