

Romans Part One: What It Takes to Change the World – Seventh Week
Reaching Religious Non-Christians, Pt. 2
Confronting Spiritual Blindness – Romans 3:1-8

Introduction: To break through to religious non-believers, we need to understand where our culture is going and employ a combination of prayer and skillful conversation.

1. REMINDER – All around the world today, religion is on the rebound. Review...

- A. Religion declined sharply from the middle-1700s to about 1990.
- B. Religion, world-wide, has risen dramatically since 1990.
- C. Religion in America has also risen dramatically since 1990...but not Christianity.

2. CASE STUDY – A rise in non-Christian religions comes with a corresponding hostility toward truth. Romans 3:1-7

- A. Remember Paul's strategy – He's addressing four groups in Romans 1:18-3:20
- B. Beginning Question – Who is asking these questions in verses 1, 3, 5 and 7?

- C. Common objections that religious non-Christians might have toward the claims of the Christian faith.
 - * "Your teaching undermines our religious history."
 - * "Your teaching undermines our holy book."
 - * "Your teaching calls into question the nature of our God or our prophet."
 - * "Your teaching seems to tolerate immorality."
- D. Note the progression in vs. 1-8 – Religious non-believers often experience blindness toward truth.
- E. We need to mirror their passion when we speak with them.

3. WHAT ABOUT US? – How do we talk about Christ in an atmosphere of postmodern resentment? John 4:7-15; 20-26

- A. A biblical parallel: the woman at the well in Sychar.
- B. She seeks to engage him in a culture war.
- C. Jesus makes the issue himself.
- D. When we speak with religious non-Christians, we need to make the core issue Jesus.

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