

THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans

A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION THREE

Romans 2:17-3:20

Questions for Session Three

1. Beginning with v. 2.17, what—*according to Paul*—was the definitive way in which the Jews knew the will of God for their lives? What were the key words in vv. 19-20 that illustrate the various roles for ideal Jews to live upstanding lives as Jews? Explain your responses.

2. As followers of Jesus Christ here in the twenty-first century, how do we know the will of God for our lives? How specific can we be? On what is our knowledge based? In what roles do we find ourselves as Christians? What is expected of us in our roles as Christians, with respect to others with whom we may have contact?

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3. What questions did Paul ask in vv. 21-23 that seemed to be an attempt to hold the Jews accountable for their *assumed* knowledge of the law? What questions can we ask ourselves, by way of self-examination, as we seek to hold ourselves and other Christians accountable to the faith that we express?

4. In vv. 23-24 we read that contemporaries of Paul in the first century, who bragged about knowing the law, dishonored God by breaking the very law that was set for them. How do you suppose these persons were viewed by the gentiles?

5. How do we break our covenant with God as persons, who have received the saving grace of receiving and knowing Jesus Christ? How are we viewed by persons on the outside, who observe this behavior? What do you suppose that repeating cycle does to/for our evangelism efforts to persons outside of our church?

6. Explain the value of circumcision if one is a Jew and continues to break the law of God. Conversely, if one is not circumcised and keeps God's law, does that make him a Jew?

