

Romans 10:2-3

² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³ For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Everywhere you look today, you can find men and women who fit this very description. Even in the church, people have a zeal for God; but it is based on their own righteousness. Many have opted for religious traditions and practices, over an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Why? Because as long as you are building your faith on what you want, then you are no longer concerned with what God wants. This can grow to where we believe that because we want it, or we believe it is right then God must view it as we do. Look for yourself how the homosexual agenda is being boldly promulgated in pulpits throughout our land; as if it is no longer a sin for a man to lay with a man, or a woman with a woman. Where in God's Word do we find such a license? It simply doesn't exist. Yet look and see how many people are deceived into believing that somehow it does. The truth is, God hates the sin of homosexuality, but He absolutely loves the sinner. But, rather than repent from this decadent sin, man seeks to manipulate God's Word to fit his own preferences and agenda.

Perhaps you agree with what I am sharing here, but what about the other deceptions that the church has fallen into? Consider the tithe? Everyone wants God's blessings and promises, but why do only ten to twenty percent of Evangelical Christians tithe? Is it because we view God as some heavenly grandfather who understands our selfish struggles with His money, and who would never really be angry, at least for very long, when it comes to keeping what's His? Don't be deceived, robbing God by not paying your tithe is absolutely sin!! Recently one of my doctors was sharing with me that his father was fifty years old when he was born, and that his father was fifty-five when his sister was born. I asked him how it was, having a father who was up in years. He said that in many ways it was like being raised by a grandfather. I think many believers view our Heavenly Father more as a grandfather, and that somehow He is more apt to look the other way, or be less strict or stringent. Though men may grow in maturity and wisdom with age, our Heavenly Father is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Often, people won't come to church if they are struggling that week with paying their tithe, as if God has some unwritten law that if you are not present, then you are not required to pay it. It's amazing how people allow vacations, holidays, birthdays, and any other thing that is competing with their tithe, to keep them from going to church. It's easy to deceive yourself into believing such nonsense, unless your foundation is built upon the knowledge of God. As long as you are allowing your own conscience to dictate your life, and not the Word of God, then you are setting yourself up for deception.

I exhort you today to stop playing Russian roulette with your life through sin. If God has spoken to you whether in His Word, or personally, to stop committing a certain sin; then stop. If you have been robbing God with your tithe, or have held back because you were offended with your minister; then stop. If you have scheduled your church attendance based on when you are paid, or when you would rather keep the tithe; then stop. Only you can choose to repent and change. Stop allowing your own righteousness, to separate you from the Living God.