Sermon - Romans Series - Easter Sunday 2024 - Praise Him for what HE has Done! Scripture - Mathew 7:15-23, Romans 13, Isaiah 5:20-21 Main Message - God is love. He is Risen. Leave the decision making to Him!

In practical terms, it is impossible to do right in the sight of God without understanding God's word, being led by the Holy Spirit, and *putting it into practice*. Why is that? I mean, how hard is it to just simply do good things and bear good fruit. Because we are undeniably selfish, self-centered, egotistical and as most of the first few chapters of Romans taught us, we are hopelessly sinful. Happy Easter – and I mean that by the way!

**Read Mathew 7 –** Look what Jesus said in v23. If that doesn't give you pause to consider, what does? It gives me pause, which is the point. Am I bearing fruit for the Kingdom? Before we get to Romans 13 we need to touch on another piece of scripture to help us today and it is from the book of Isaiah.

## Read Isaiah 5:20-21

Sadly, there are people in the world that actually believe that the evil things that God has identified for us as evil are called good. For any number of reasons, they fully think they know what is good. Even scarier is that some of them would identify themselves as Christian. Will they be hearing that message, "I never knew you" when standing before the Lord? This begs the question, how do you know the that which is good and the "real" truth so that you also are not deceived? Back in Isaiah's day, the kings (ruling officials) were doing evil in the sight of the Lord and in general, the people were happy to go along with the evil. The times in which we live are as polarized and as confusing as it has ever been. Choices between one evil decision or a lesser evil is... still evil. Yet the human mind justifies the lesser evil as good. This is how truth becomes corrupted. Consider the topic of Abortion. Nearly every single group of those polled which spans the entire spectrum of age, politics, religion, and sex, have a significant portion of them signifying that it should be legal. If you add exceptional situations like rape or incest, then it goes even further in support of it.

Lets move along to Romans 13.

Paul will tell us in this chapter the same thing that Jesus told us about honoring those who are in positions of authority. That does not mean we violate God's holy laws and ordinances and in these days we must use GOD to determine what the rulers of our day are pushing for. We will sort that superficial conflict out today.

This day realize the Love that God has and how deep and beyond our understanding it truly is.

God did not go through the suffering and the crucifixion just to have us muddle our way through life in doubt, misery and ineffectiveness. Those are things not of the Spirit. If you are confused about the path, then you aren't filled with God's Truth. If you're convinced of your path, then you aren't filled with HIS truth. Be only filled with HIS Truth. This day, the day we celebrate Him being risen and a conqueror of all that can come against us, give God the glory and honor for HIS ways are perfect and no other – Period.