

Series "How Great A Salvation"
"A Religious Hoax"
Romans 2:17-29
Study-7

Jesus said at the close of the Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 7:22-23

Romans 1:18-3:20 – Condemnation (World)

The Jews Guilty. This indictment is 2 parts – **Romans 2:17-29 – False Hope Of Religion; Romans 3:1-8 – The Advantage Of The Jew.**

"Jew" mentioned 4X in this section; **the religious devotees of their day. Today it is "Church Member, American Church Members."**

Thought Of Our Passage: "Religions Rely Upon Laws, Rituals And Even Ancestry Which Are Merely An External Façade, Lacking The True Substance."

- 1. Verses 17-24 – Law Can't Save You**
- 2. Verses 25-27 – Ritual Can't Save You**
- 3. Verses 28-29 – Ancestry Can't Save You**

1. Verses 17-24 – Law Can't Save You:

Romans 2:17 – "But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God,"

"But if you bear the name 'Jew'" – Paul left off with an indictment against the "Self-Righteous, Hypocrite;" Pretended Religion; It was not the hearers of the word but the doers – Romans 2:13.

"Law" – Key word; over 70X in Romans. Paul has to break down this false notion that salvation comes from possessing or obeying the Law.

Verses 17-20 – Paul Cites 8 things that the Jews saw as their saving grace:

- 1. Privilege Of Bearing The Name Jew:** Romans 2:17 – "But if you bear the name 'Jew,'" – The word "Jew" was taken from "Judah;" means – "praise to Jehovah, praise." "A true Jew is one who is praiseworthy by God's standards; God's divine approval;" Covenant People.
- 2. Jews Reliance Upon The Law:** Romans 2:17 – "and rely upon the Law," – Given at Sinai by God to Moses. They Trusted the law for standing; shield from God.

3. Jews Boasted In The True God: Romans 2:17 – “and boast in God,” – Monotheism; The God of Israel is true God; and true worship of God.

Romans 2:18

4. Jews Were Proud Of Knowing God’s Will: Romans 2:18 – “and know His will,” – Literally, “the will;” the revealed will of God. They derived this from the Ten Commandments and the other Covenant Scriptures.

5. Jews Claimed Superiority In Moral Judgments: Romans 2:18 – “and approve the things that are essential,” – Keen sense of moral discernment; Jews prided themselves on being able to make superior moral judgments. They were not like the ignorant gentiles.

6. Jews Were Instructed Exclusively From The Law: Romans 2:18 – “being instructed out of the Law,” – The Law was a light to their feet.

7. Jews Were Confident Teachers Of Others: Romans 2:19 – “and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind,” – With all these privileges, they saw themselves as the one to guide the spiritually blind.

“a light to those who are in darkness,” – They were the light.

Romans 2:20 – “a corrector of the foolish,” – Unlearned; The foolish is the person that is morally deficient; the person that is living without God.

“a teacher of the immature,” – Teachers of children; Those that are in need of nurture.

8. Jews Possessed Exclusive Knowledge Of The Truth: Romans 2:20 – “having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,” – It is true that the Law was God’s truth to man.

John 3:16

Verses 21-24 – Questions Of Profession Versus Practice. **Paul asks 5 questions in such a way that the questions demanded agreement:**

Romans 2:21

Question #1 – “you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?” – Have you any defects? True teaching should always result in a change of behavior, including the teacher.

Question #2 – “you who preach that one should not steal, do you steal?” – Notice that he does not accuse them, he appeals to their conscience.

Romans 2:22

Question #3 – “You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?” – Adultery is committed in the heart; Heart searching. Do I commit adultery? Matthew 5:27-37

“Idols” – “anything that takes the rightful place of God.”

Question #4 – “do you rob temples?” – Is money your god? If you don’t work, you don’t eat! Man does not live by bread alone! Matthew 6:19-24

Romans 2:23 – “You who boast in the Law,” – We should be boasting in the grace of God, not the Law. Law exposes sin; has no power to keep or forgive for sins.

Question #5 – “through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?”

James 1:22

Romans 2:24 – taken from Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:22.

2. Verses 25-27 – Ritual Can’t Save You:

Romans 2:25 – “circumcision” – that of rite, ceremony; Symbol of being God’s people. Today: baptism, confirmation, church membership.

“For indeed circumcision is of value,” – If the outward ritual or action reflects an inward transformation, Romans 4:11.

Genesis 17:9-15 – Abrahamic Covenant – to be an outward sign of an inward work.

“if you practice the Law;” – Like water baptism, it is a great thing if it is internal. If not, it is false security; Mistook the seal for reality!

“but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.” – Jeremiah 9:25-26

Romans 2:26; Jeremiah 4:4

Romans 2:27

Turning the table – The uncircumcised stand in judgment of the circumcised Jews!

3. Verses 28-29 – Ancestry Can't Save You:

Romans 2:28 – “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly;” – Name “Jew” 4X in this section. There is no salvation based on ancestry.

“nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.” – That is ceremony and ritual but means nothing.

Romans 2:29 – “But he is a Jew who is one inwardly;” – It is the heart that is the true issue.

“and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter;” – Deuteronomy 30:6.

Galatians 3:29; Colossians 2:11

“and his praise is not from men, but from God.” – The word “praise” is a play on the word “Jew;” means – “praise to Jehovah.”

Application:

1. Law Cannot Save You. Believers Have Been Granted Great Privileges Which Come With Great Responsibilities. Whenever A Professing Believer Starts To See Themselves As Superior, This Can Be A Sign That One Doesn't Fully Understand The Grace Of God.
2. Ritual Cannot Save You. Like Water Baptism Which Is An Important Step In The Life Of A Believer; Water Baptism Finds Its True Meaning And Significance Through An Inward Relationship With Jesus Christ; Then Sealed Outwardly Through Water Baptism.
3. Ancestry Cannot Save You. Being Born Into A Family That Professes Jesus Christ, Being Born Unto Parents That May Have Official Titles In A Church Cannot Save You. A Relationship With God Is An Individual Decision To God's Standards. Just Like A True Jew Is One Who Is Praiseworthy By God's Standards, They Have God's Divine Approval.