

Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

1/17/2021 AM

"The Perils of Self-Righteousness" Romans 2:17-29



Introduction:

I. THE PRIVILEGES OF THE JEWS (vs. 17-20)

A. Access to the Truth (vs. 17-19a)

"but if you bear the name 'Jew'..."

- "and rely upon the Law"
- "and boast in God"
- "and know His will"
- "and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law"
- "and are confident..."

B. Accountability to the Truth (vs. 19b-20)

"that you yourself are a guide to the blind..."

- "a light to those who are in darkness"
- "a corrector of the foolish"
- "a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth"

II. THE PRACTICES OF THE JEWS (vs. 21-24)

A. Spiritual Insecurity (vs. 21-22)

"You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?"

"You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?"

"You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?"

"You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?"

B. Spiritual Insensitivity (vs. 23-24)

"You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?"

"For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles BECAUSE OF YOU' "

"just as it is written"

III. THE POSITION OF THE JEWS (vs. 25-29)

A. The Limited Value of Ritual (vs. 25-27)

“For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.”

“So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?”

“And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law?”

B. The Limitless Value of Reality (vs. 28-29)

“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.”

“But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter...”

“...and his praise is not from men, but from God.”

Conclusion:

- 1) What behaviors do you like to condemn? Are you then guilty of condoning this in some way?
- 2) God shows no favoritism in His judgment of sin.
- 3) Hypocrisy incurs the judgment of God.
- 4) Spirituality is evaluated by God based on internal evidence.

Food for Thought:

- 1) How is Bible knowledge both a valuable and yet a dangerous thing to have? How can we avoid this?
- 2) What happens when professing Christians are not real?
- 3) If people could see my inner life, would they find it consistent with what you profess?
- 4) What impact does a judgmental attitude by the church toward society have on our ability to share the gospel?