

Chap 2:17-29



ROMANS
GOSPEL~ROOTED LIVING

Where have we been so far?

- Received God's grace and peace?
- Received the Gospel by faith?
- Rejoice: you are saved from the lies of sin
- Other's sin? Focus on the Gospel!

διατριβω (diatribō)

- Paul uses diatribe
 - Greco-Roman rhetorical device
 - A forceful and critical verbal attack
- Emails and texts?

Jews believed they're exempt from punishment

- Merit salvation

- Rich Young Ruler – Matt 19:16-22

- Lineage

- John the Baptist's rebuke – Luke 3:7-8

- Jews appeal before Jesus – John 8:31-39

In Rom 2, Paul refutes two other “exemptions”

- Recipients of the Torah
- Recipients of Circumcision
- Why do they have these false notions?
 - Fear of revisiting exile resulted in fences?
 - 400 yrs of silence warped their theology?

Do we rely on external religious things instead of God's grace?

Video

Romans 2:17-21a “You should know better!”

17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God...²¹do you not teach yourself?

- Your guilt is greater – Jam 3:1

Romans 2:21b-22 “You hypocrites!”

...preach against stealing, do you steal?...one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

- Psalm 50:16-21

Romans 2:23-24 “Your witness is horrible!”

23 You who boast in the law, dishonor God by breaking the law... “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

- Paul is quoting Isaiah 52:5 & Ezekiel 36:20
- Guilt greater – boasting publicly dishonors

The Jew's Defense

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| [1] if you call yourself a Jew | [1] guide to the blind |
| [2] and rely upon the law | [2] light for those in darkness |
| [3] and boast in God | [3] instructor of the foolish |
| [4] and know his will | [4] teacher of little ones |
| [5] and discern good & evil | [5] embodiment of the law |

The Charges Against Them

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| [1] you teach others | [1] do you teach yourself? |
| [2] you preach not to steal | [2] do you not steal? |
| [3] you say no adultery | [3] do you commit adultery? |
| [4] you who despise idols | [4] do you not rob temples? |
| [5] you who boast in the law | [5] don't you break the law? |

The Proof

You actions dishonor God

Romans 2:25 “You bear the sign of the covenant!”

...if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision

- Circumcision not visible, but actions are!
- Reminded multiple times/day – no excuse!

Romans 2:26-27 – hyperbolic comparison

*26 ...if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the
...the law...he who is physically uncircumcised
but keeps the law, will condemn you...*

- 100% obedience required
- Gal 3:10 / Jam 2:10 / Matt 5:48

Romans 2:28-29 Re-definition of a “Jew”

²⁸ ...circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit...

- A “child of the covenant” is spiritually born”
- Circumcision of the heart
 - Removal of any obstacles to full obedience
 - Internalizing God’s external action - Dt 30:6

Summary: outward religious things do not save

- Law does not save
- Circumcision does not save
- Lineage does not save

Remember the video?

- Some trust in outward religious practices
 - Never doubt they're a Christian
 - Relationship w/other Christians, not God
- Some trust in nothing
 - Disregard God entirely
- Both have same problem – don't know God

Cultivate devoting ourselves to knowing God

- Cultivate: “to prepare, use and develop”
- Jesus’ devotional life
- Jesus’ devotion to submitting to God
- Jesus’ devotion to other people
- The Holy Spirit is there to help!



ROMANS

GOSPEL~ROOTED LIVING



Only thing that saves is trusting...

- *Sola Scriptura* – according to the Scriptures
- *Sola Gratia* – we are saved by grace alone
- *Solus Christus* – in Christ alone
- *Sola Fide* – by faith alone
- *Soli Deo Gloria* – to the glory of God alone

Summary: outward religious practices don't save

- Law does not save
 - Does Christian disobedience honor God?
- Circumcision does not save
 - Do we “*adorn the Gospel*”? (Titus 2:9-10)
- Lineage does not save
 - B/C we're raised in Christian home/church?