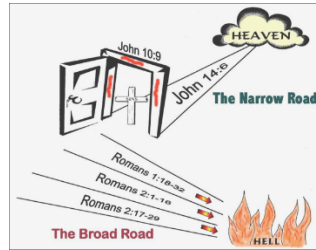


## THE JUDGMENT OF GOD AGAINST THE RELIGIOUS SINNER {The Righteousness of God Required #4 - Romans 2:17-29}

- A comparison of Matthew 7:13-14 with Romans 1:18-3:20:



- I. **THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD INTRODUCED (Romans 1:1-17)**
- II. **SIN & CONDEMNATION - THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD REQUIRED (Romans 1:18-3:20)**
  - A. **The GUILTY VERDICT and JUDGMENT of GOD Against the IMMORAL SINNER. (1:18-32)**
  - B. **The GUILTY VERDICT and JUDGMENT of GOD Against the MORAL SINNER. (2:1-16)**
  - C. **The GUILTY VERDICT and JUDGMENT of GOD Against the RELIGIOUS SINNER. (2:17-29)**
    1. **The PROUD BOASTS & PRIVILEGES of the RELIGIOUS JEW. (2:17-20) “Indeed”** – introduces several 1<sup>st</sup> class conditional clauses assuming a reality either because it is true or for the sake of argument. These are assumed blessings or privileges enjoyed by the Jews. What are they?
      - a. **The right “religion” - “you are called a \_\_\_\_\_”** – this term was gladly embraced & applied by the Jewish people generally as they were “sons of Abraham” by birth ethnically, making them a member of the earthly chosen covenanted people of God {Deut. 7:6}. However, what did this designation cause them to mistakenly assume like so many today? {Matt. 3:9; 8:36-44; Gal. 3:6-7}
      - b. **The right standard & authority - “and you rest {or rely} on the \_\_\_\_\_”** – while it was an advantage to have the Law of God {3:1-2}, the Jews twisted the purpose of the Law into a means of escaping the wrath of God & obtaining the needed righteousness to enter God’s presence. How is this religious misconception duplicated today? What also did they add to the Law? {Matt. 15:1ff; Col. 2:8; 1 Pet. 1:18}
      - c. **The right Deity - “and you make your boast {to boast, glory in, rejoice in} in {your unique, covenantal relationship with the true & living} \_\_\_\_\_”** - this would be unlike the Gentiles with their pagan idolatry. {Eph. 2:11-13}
      - d. **The right knowledge - “and” {you assume to} “know His” {God’s} \_\_\_\_\_ {special revelation}.**
      - e. **The right discernment - “and {you assume to} \_\_\_\_\_ {to discern & approve} the things that are excellent {differing right vs wrong; essential}. How would they know these things? “being INSTRUCTED {with oral instruction} out of {from} the LAW.”** And because of this ...
      - f. **Their religious confidence - “and {you} are \_\_\_\_\_ {being thoroughly persuaded} that you \_\_\_\_\_ are {serving God & others as} a guide to the blind {Mt. 23:16}, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor {discipler} of the foolish, a teacher of babes {immature}, {how? by} having the form {embodiment} of {God’s} knowledge and truth {found where?} in the LAW.** While they are agreeing with this assessment & are even proud of it, what does this mean practically before God in this context of God’s wrath? {1:20; 2:1} What is the irony of this?

2. **The PENETRATING RHETORICAL QUESTIONS & ACCUSATIONS against the RELIGIOUS JEW. (2:21-24)**
- a. **The GENERAL QUESTION Posed & ACCUSATION Raised. (2:21a)** *You* {the religious Jew}, *therefore, who teach another* {from the Law}, *do you \_\_\_\_\_ teach yourself?* This question is designed to self-evaluate since they are confident of their knowledge of God's will and discernment from the Law. Do you practice what you preach? {Ps. 50:16-21; Matthew 23:1ff}.
- b. **Three SPECIFIC QUESTIONS & INDICTMENTS Posed. (2:21b-22)** What are they?
- 1) *You who preach that a man should not steal* {Ex. 20:5}, *do you steal?* (2:21b) See Matt. 21:13, 23:14!
  - 2) *You who say, "Do not commit adultery"* {Ex. 20:14}, *do you commit adultery?* See Jer. 7:9-10; Matt. 5:28, 15:19!
  - 3) *"You who abhor {detest} idols, do you rob {plunder} temples?"* – See Deut. 7:25; Col. 3:5.
- c. **The SELF & SCRIPTURAL CONDEMNATION after Evaluating the Evidence. (2:23-24)**
- 1) **Their self-condemnation is rank \_\_\_\_\_: *You who make your boast in the law, do you DISHONOR* {disgracing} *God through BREAKING* {violating} *the law?***
  - 2) **Their scriptural condemnation is the prompting of \_\_\_\_\_: *For "the NAME of God* {Ex. 20:2-7} *is BLASPHEMED among the Gentiles because of YOU* {Jews}, *" as it is written* {Isaiah 52:5; 2 Sam. 12:14; Ez. 36:20-22; Matt. 23:14,23}.**
3. **The POLEMIC Against the SAVING EFFICACY of CIRCUMCISION. (2:25-29)** What was the significance of "circumcision" for the Jewish male? What is a similar misunderstanding today?
- a. **The RIGHT RITUAL – The profitability of circumcision IF ... (2:25)** *For circumcision is indeed profitable* {profitable, advantageous, beneficial} \_\_\_\_\_ {completely}. {James 2:10; Gal. 5:3}; *but if you are a \_\_\_\_\_ of* {any part of} *the law* {which all Jews are!}, *your circumcision has become UNCIRCUMCISION* {like a Gentile, as if you never had it performed}. See Gal. 5:11; 6:15! This was stated to remove the rite of circumcision from the list of works that the religious Jew might depend upon to afford him a pardon from God.
- b. **The REQUIREMENT - The profitability of Law-keeping IF ... (2:26-27)** *Therefore, if an uncircumcised man* {hypothetically} \_\_\_\_\_ *the righteous requirements of the law* {morally, to love God and others}, *will not his uncircumcision be counted* {calculated} *as circumcision?* This is the same argument in reverse. If it is not circumcision that determines salvation from God's wrath but obedience to the Law, then it stands to reason if a Gentile could perfectly keep the righteous requirements of the Law due to his conscience, then they could potentially be saved from wrath through this means. If the transgression of the law results in wrath, would not obedience to the Law result in justification? *And will not the physically uncircumcised* {the Gentile}, *if he \_\_\_\_\_ the law,* \_\_\_\_\_ *you* {the Jew} *who, even with your written code* {the Law} *and circumcision* {covenantal sign & ritual}, *are a \_\_\_\_\_* {violator} *of the law?* This would be an abhorrent & humbling thought. The problem is not the knowledge of the Law, but the complete obedience of the Law needed to attain a right standing before God. 3:10-12, 19-20, 23-28.
- c. **The REASON that EXTERNAL RITUALS & RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE Cannot Save. (2:28-29)** *For he is not a* {justified / regenerated - Jew; 9:6, 30-33} *Jew who is one \_\_\_\_\_* {by way of mere birth, ethnicity, efforts at law-keeping & religious rituals}, *nor is circumcision that which is OUTWARD in the flesh; 29 but he is a* {justified} *Jew who is one \_\_\_\_\_* {by faith alone in Christ alone}; *and* {true} *circumcision is that of the HEART, in* {by} *the* {Holy}

***Spirit*** {Jn. 3:3-8}, ***not in the letter*** {Col. 2:11-13}; ***whose praise is not from men but from GOD***.  
An internal & spiritual problem cannot be resolved by external & religious works. {Matt.5:20; 7:21-23}