

# Journey Through Romans

## ROMANS 2:17 to 29

### THE JEW IS CONDEMNED

**(Romans 2:17 KJV) "Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,"**

1. Thou art called a Jew – An impressive title.
  - a. (Revelation 2:9 KJV) "... I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."
  - b. It is one thing to be called something, it is another thing to be.
  - c. "Thou art called a Jew; not so much in parentage as profession. It was a very honourable title." (Matthew Henry Commentary)
  - d. (John 1:13 KJV) "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
2. Notice: These Jews rest in the law – They should have rested in Christ!
  - a. (Acts 15:10 KJV) Peter says, "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"
  - b. (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV) "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
3. And makest thy boast of God
  - a. (Zephaniah 3:11 KJV) "In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain."
  - b. (James 2:19 KJV) "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."

**(Romans 2:18 KJV) "And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;"**

1. Knowest his will – You can know God's will from the law all day long but that will not save you. That is not the essential thing to know about God's will.

- a. (John 6:40 KJV) "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."
2. And approve the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law.
  - a. Approve (Outline of Biblical Usage):
    - i. to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals
    - ii. to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy
  - b. (Luke 12:56 KJV) "Ye hypocrites, ye can discern[G1381] the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern[G1381] this time?"

**(Romans 2:19 KJV) "And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,"**

**(Romans 2:20 KJV) "An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law."**

1. Because they have the law and study the law, they are convinced that they are guides, lights, instructors, and teachers.
2. I own a car. I know some things about it, and I feel like I can teach people a few things about it. But if the radiator goes out or the suspension system goes bad, I am going to take it to a mechanic.
3. It is one thing to have something. It is another thing to practice and work on something yourself. There is knowledge and then there is experience.
4. Which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law – the form.
  - a. (2 Timothy 3:5 KJV) "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."
  - b. (Mark 12:32-34 KJV) "And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question."
  - c. (Acts 26:28 KJV) "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."
  - d. (Hebrews 9:11-14 KJV) "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much

more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

**(Romans 2:21 KJV) "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?"**

**(Romans 2:22 KJV) "Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?"**

1. These could be inward sins – sins of the heart. No doubt they often are.
2. But there is something about religion that allows us to think that if we are teachers we are somehow covered.
  - a. How many priests have been involved in molesting children or fornication over the years?
  - b. How many preachers have been overtaken by pornography or alcohol or some other sin?
    - i. Illustration: 20,000 member Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale, FL pastor Bob Coy had to resign due to “moral failings” which were reported to be adultery.
    - ii. Illustration: Pastor Perry Noble who had pastored the “New Spring” mega-church for 16 years recently had to step down because of an alcohol addiction.
    - iii. Illustration: Several years ago Pastor Jack Schapp of the “First Baptist Hammond” mega-church was fired due to an improper relationship with a 16-year-old girl that he was “counseling.” He took her across state lines to fornicate when she was underage, and he is now in prison.
  - c. What is it about religious work that makes men think that they can get away with such things?

**(Romans 2:23 KJV) "Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?"**

**(Romans 2:24 KJV) "For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written."**

1. As it is written: (2 Samuel 12:14 KJV) "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."
2. How many Christians, because they are lazy and dishonest on the job cause the unsaved to blaspheme the name of God.
  - a. “Well, if that is what God does for him I don’t want his God.”
3. Christians seem to believe that they can live like everyone else and it is okay. We shouldn’t act super-pious, but we need to live right. People are watching.

- b. (Hebrews 10:33 KJV) "Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used."
  - i. Gazingstock = Grk. *Theatrizō*. Sounds like Theatre, and indeed that is what it means. It means to "bring upon the stage" and then, "to set forth as a spectacle; to expose to contempt." (OBU)

**(Romans 2:25 KJV) "For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision."**

1. Circumcision was a Jewish religious rite. It was, of course, only for the males. It pictured separation unto the LORD.
2. Let's apply this to the Christian ordinance of baptism. This will help to understand.
  - a. We could say, "For baptism truly profits if you are saved: but if you are not saved, your baptism is meaningless."
  - b. So, just as baptism pertains to salvation, circumcision pertains to the Law.
  - c. Circumcision means something, if you are going to keep the law. If you are not going to keep it, then you might as well not be circumcised.
    - i. Circumcision meant that you were separated to the Lord. You were dedicated to obey Him. If you are a law-breaker, circumcision is not fulfilling its meaning in your life. It was an outward symbol of an inward heart dedication to God.

**(Romans 2:26 KJV) "Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?"**

1. In verse 25, "circumcision and uncircumcision" speak of the Jewish rite. In verse 26, "uncircumcision" speaks of the person who has not received that rite.
2. If the uncircumcised person keeps the righteousness of the law, his heart and life are fulfilling the meaning of circumcision. Therefore, his state of being uncircumcised will be counted for circumcision. He is separated unto the Lord, though he has not received the physical symbol of that separation.

**(Romans 2:27 KJV) "And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?"**

1. Uncircumcision is natural. It takes a doctor and something sharp to circumcise a baby boy. So, if those who do not follow the Jewish rite of circumcision, if they fulfill the law; will they not stand in judgement of Jews who follow the letter of the law and are circumcised, but transgress the spirit of the law?
2. Paul talks about fulfilling the law vs keeping the letter and transgressing the spirit of the law.

3. The Jewish religious leaders were a great example of this: (Matthew 27:3-8 KJV) "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day."

**(Romans 2:28 KJV) "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:"**

**(Romans 2:29 KJV) "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."**

1. Old Testament had quite a lot to say about being circumcised in heart:
2. (Deuteronomy 10:16 KJV) "Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked."
3. (Deuteronomy 30:6 KJV) "And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."
4. (Jeremiah 4:4 KJV) "Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings."
5. Paul is saying, "It is not enough to be circumcised and to have the law; these things do not make one Jewish. You need to be born again. You need God to do a work inside of you. If you want to be a Jew, true Jews are saved Jews. A person who is born a Jew is not a true Jew unless they are born again.
6. We will consider this in closing: A person is not a Christian because he or she has the outward form of Christianity. Rather, a person is a Christian, because he has been born again; God has done a work on his inside!