

Romans 2:17-29

Chocking on our halo

3. Special revelation condemns man. (2:17-3:8)

a. Man did not keep the law of God (2:17-29)

1. Doctrinal arrogance. (2:17-20)

“¹⁷ But if you bear the name “Jew,” and rely upon the Law, and boast in God, ¹⁸ and know {His} will, and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, ¹⁹ and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,

2. Ethical hypocrisy. (2:21-24)

²¹ you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, do you steal? ²² You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? ²⁴ For “*the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,*” just as it is written.

3. Sacramental superficiality. (2:25-29)

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ If therefore the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ And will not 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? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ 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.”

Romans 2:17-29

The point

As long as we hide behind religious systems to deny our need for the righteousness of faith, we will not experience the life promised us in Christ.

The Spirit of Christ who is our comforter, inspires Paul to take away our hiding places so that we will see our need and fully appreciate the cross.

Audit questions for our soul

Do we feel spiritually secure and superior because we “believe the Bible” and are orthodox in our theology?

What we really believe as revealed in our choices?

**Are we selective in how we keep score spiritually?
We are only as holy as our weaknesses.**

Are we holy when graded on our weaknesses not our strengths?

Are we feeling eternally secure because we had a conversion experience and were baptized?

Do we look and act like converted baptized believers?

The basic question is this:

To what extent are we to find security in our own religious experience and moral merit? Paul sees no place for such security, do we?

Two challenges for the modern church

***Liberal
apostasy***

**The church's
concern**

***Triumphal
hypocrisy***

**The Scripture's
concern**

Satan's fall

Romans 2:17-29

Matthew 23

I Corinthians 4:6-13