

## #13 - Romans 2:17-29

### Jewish Privilege (v. 17-20)

- Call yourself a Jew
  - Rely on the law
  - Boast in God
    - See Jer. 9:23-24: *Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."*
  - Know His will
  - Approve what is excellent
  - Instructed from the law
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- A guide to the blind
  - A light to those who are in darkness
  - An instructor of the foolish
  - A teacher of children (possibly proselytes)
  - Having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth

### Jewish Hypocrisy (v. 21-24) - Four Questions

- You then who teach others, do you not teach yourself?
- While you preach against stealing, do you steal?
- You who say that one must commit adultery, do you commit adultery?
- You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
  - "It is not, then, that all Jews commit these sins, but that these sins are representative of the contradiction between claim and conduct that *does* pervade Judaism." - Douglas Moo, 165
- You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.
  - For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."
    - Quoting Isaiah 52:5

### Jewish Circumcision - v. 25-27

- Circumcision and obedience to the Law : Big Time Covenant identity Markers!

- Hypothetical: The uncircumcision acting like the circumcision
- On v. 27 cf. Matthew 12:41-42: *The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.*

## **The True Jew (v. 28-29) - Circumcision of the Heart**

- OT: Deut. 10:16; Jer. 4:4; 9:25-26
  - (God alone can circumcise the heart: Deut. 30:6)

## **Application**

1. On what are we relying?

- Theological Orthodoxy
- Family History
- Church Liturgy and Ritual
- Power Encounters and Experiences
- Denomination Membership and Attendance

2. Are we being consistent? Are we walking in the way we teach and believe?

- "As you read your Bible day by day, do you apply the truth to yourself? What is your motive when you read the Bible? Is it just to have a knowledge of it so that you can show others how much you know, and argue with them, or are you applying the truth to yourselves?... As you read... Say to yourself, 'This is me! What is it saying about me?' Allow the Scripture to search you, otherwise it can be very dangerous. There is a sense in which the more you know of [the Bible], the more dangerous it is to you, if you do not apply it to yourself." Martin Lloyd-Jones (quoted in Keller, 55-56)

3. Do I have a new heart?