

Romans 2:17-29

Quick recap:

The first two chapters of the book of Romans is Paul proving that all are under sin (Romans 3:9). In Romans 1:16 Paul says the gospel is the power of God unto salvation for the Jew and Gentile. Then for the rest of the chapter he discusses the wrath of God manifested in this life. Then in Romans 2:1-11 we learn God is righteous in all his judgments. In Romans 2:12-16, Paul deals with the heathen that never heard the law (also applies to not ever hearing the gospel) and how God will judge them to by the dictates of their conscience. They will be judged according to the light they were given and how they responded to it. We saw last week (story of Cornelius) how a man seeking light gets more light from God. A man who rejects and doesn't come to the light is in sin and knows it and doesn't want to do anything about it; therefore the wrath of God abides upon him. "Rejected light becomes lightning."

Then after slamming the Gentiles Paul slams the Jews in Romans 2:17-29. We also can spiritually apply this passage to born-again blood bought Christians.

2:17-20 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

Notice first of all the advantage the Jew had over the Gentile (Romans 3:1-2; Psalm 147:19-20). They had the written word of God. Can I say something? If you have a copy of the written word of God, you are at an advantage (Luke 12:41-48) over those that don't have it. Why is that? Because you have the word by which God will judge us all. You have the answers to the test in your hands. You have the truth in there. You see the glory of the LORD in there. Living in America, we are at an advantage and therefore, God will require more from us.

Notice the pride in verses 2:17-20. THEY boast of God (talk), THEY know his will (head knowledge), THEY approve right things (talk), THEY are instructed from the word of God (head knowledge), and THEY are confident THEY are a guide and a light that will lighten up the darkness (I thought that was Jesus – see Matthew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 4:3-7), THEY are instructors of the fools, THEY are teachers – since they have the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

Isn't that interesting? Sounds like someone is puffed up: why would that be? Because knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies (1 Corinthians 8:1). Head knowledge is no good unless you walk in that knowledge. If you have head knowledge without the walk, you can easily become prideful.

What the old man likes to do is exalt itself above someone else that we think is lower than us. We are commanded to esteem others higher than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).

/*= ===== What the will of God is for all saved people =====*/

Stop sinning, give thanks in all things, obey all authority, and live for Jesus which includes suffering. In other words, don't do what you want to do, but do what God wants you to do. How do you know what God wants you to do? Read the Book and Pray!

1. *Stop Sinning*
1 Thessalonians 4:3 1 Peter 4:1-4
2. *In everything give thanks*
1 Thessalonians 5:18
3. *Obey all authority*
1 Peter 2:13-18, Romans 13:1-7
4. *Live for Jesus*
1 Peter 4:1-4, Galatians 2:16-21, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
5. *Be ready to suffer*
1 Peter 3:17, 4:19, Philippians 1:29 2 Timothy 3:10-12

/*= ===== */

2:21-24 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

What's the problem with knowing those things? Nothing, in fact it is important to know those things. The problem comes in when you don't live according to your knowledge. Notice he says, hey man you keep teaching people all this stuff, are you not teaching yourself? You say don't do this, do you do it? And because you say one thing, and claim one thing, and your life doesn't match your mouth, the name of God is blasphemed by Gentiles through you!

Jesus had a word for this that he used quite often on earth: **hypocrite** (He used this word 20 times in the gospels)

Jesus does NOT like hypocrites (Job 13:13-16, Isaiah 9:17, Matthew 7:1-5, 15:7-9, 23:13-33)

2:25-27 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? 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?

There was a profit if the Jew kept the law under the Old Testament. You would live (Leviticus 18:5); God would bless you financially, give peace throughout the land, put to flight their enemies, drive away evil beasts, and bless them with lots of kids, make them the head nation, etc (Leviticus 26:3-12, Deuteronomy 28:9-14 – notice all physical; compare with our blessings – Ephesians 1:3-14). These things don't apply to the Christian at all. There goes TBN (take your buck network) and all of your money mad

