

**I. Hypocrisy Revealed - Romans 2:17-24**

1. You - the group (**verses 17-18**)

Rea -note long “if/then” statement in these first verses

-a series of “conditional” statements - translated “since”

Rea -I like “if” because it forces the “conditional” idea ... if you are so good then,...  
you ought to know some things

2. The Jews

A. Relied on the law

-knew the law

Rea -just because you know the Bible does not make you right. At Isaiah 1, the  
people were doing sacrifices just as the law required but their hearts were  
far from God.

B. Boast in God

Rea -boast they then “knew” Him (implied, and that others did not)

-knowing God’s will they ought to live as if they know Him and His will

Rea -the same could be said about the modern church

C. Instructed by the law - taught

Rea -the law helps us to “approve” or put our approval on that which is good  
and right

D. They see themselves as a guide for the blind (**verses 19-20**) - those who are in  
the dark

-self-righteous

Rea -there are those who believe their church is superior - you ought come  
here, because he “get it” more than other churches. There is no esoteric  
order in the Christian faith - but there is in almost all world religions.  
There are a group of the “enlightened.” One mark of a sect is they all  
profess to know something that others don’t know. Satan told Adam that if  
he would take of the tree, he would know things that God was trying to  
keep to Himself.

E. They see themselves as instructors

-of the foolish

-of the children - child-like

F. They were (in their knowledge of the law) the embodiment of knowledge and  
truth

Rea -is there any truth in these statements?

G. They teach others (**verses 21-22**)

1) teach against stealing

2) teach about adultery

Rea -this is the reason that Jesus taught us to remove the splinter from  
our own eye

3) abhor idols - but rob temples

4) boast in the law - but dishonor the law

Rea                      \*it's not having the law, its obeying the law - similarly, it's not knowing about Jesus it's obeying Jesus - you are my friends if you obey my commands

3. They break the very law they boast in (**verses 23-24**)

-compare John 14:15; 15:10

4. Because of their actions God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles

Rea                      -what does the lost world think of today's church?

Rea      **Ideas and Questions:**

1. How do you get to the place that you know the law and yet don't obey it?

2. He is not saying that the law is bad - on the contrary I hear him saying that the law is good

3. Discuss the reputation of the local church - every church has one... a reputation in its community - what is yours?

## **II. Obedience Required - Romans 2:25-27**

1. Circumcision

Rea                      -the segue to circumcision is that...

A. Circumcision is in the law

B. Circumcision served as a mark of their covenant (to keep the law)

2. It has value

-it makes no difference if you have been circumcised if you don't keep the law

Rea                      -in the local church we "make a profession of faith" versus obey the law - what is the danger there?

3. He redefines the meaning and importance of circumcision

A. If those without circumcision keep the law it is as if they were circumcised

B. The circumcision is really a heart thing, not a body thing

Rea                      C. Discuss the similarities of those who are "baptized" but not living like believers

4. God wants obedience rather than keeping the letter of the law

Rea      **Ideas and Questions:**

1. So is the law good or bad?

2. Don't we claim to be "one step ahead" of others because we know and have the Bible?

3. How is it that some who know their Bibles best, are the most critical and judgmental in the church? - what can be done about this?

4. How do you tell if someone has a heart faith or a legalistic faith?

## **III. Heart Recognized - Romans 2:28-29**

1. What is a Jew? - one outwardly or inwardly? (**Verse 28**)

- Jesus and the apostles were Jews

-discuss Jesus' words on this subject at Matthew 23:23 (a verse that has a bit to say about tithing)

2. Circumcision is outward - the real faith is inward

Rea                      -or should be

Rea                      -we say a person is "saved" if they have...

A) walked the isle

B) been baptized

\*But what about the heart? (**Verse 29**)

3. A real Jew is one who is one inwardly  
-so are modern day Christians true “Jews?”

Rea

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. A hypocrite is a liar - because he says one thing on the outside, but in reality there is something else that is true
2. How do you tell a true believer?  
How do we know if we ourselves are really true believers?
3. If you dare, compare baptism to circumcision - this might stir up a hornet’s nest (but perhaps it needs to be stirred up)
  - Baptism is outward, so is circumcision
  - Baptism is a mark of a believer, so was circumcision
  - people boast in their baptism in the same way people boasted in their circumcision
  - people count on their baptism to get them to heaven, just as they counted on their outward circumcision to get ‘em to heaven
  - here’s one... most circumcisions were done when the person was too young to know it, and so many baptisms are done today when people are too young to make any type of decision
4. It is easier to make church members (walk the isle and be baptized) than it is to “Make Disciples”

Jere Phillips - SS Lesson for 3-15-20