

091524

## "Even the 'Religious' Need the Gospel, Part 2"

Romans 2:17-29

Shawn Reese



### Background

This week we continue in Romans chapter 2, where Paul continues to point the finger at 'religious' people, which happen to be his people, who look down on other broken people in condemnation. He's continuing to build his case that all people, 'religious' or not, are infected with the virus of sin, and all people, 'religious' or not, need the Gospel. Join us this Sunday as we consider our own need for the Gospel.

### Sermon Text: Romans 2:17-29

*<sup>17</sup> Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; <sup>18</sup> if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; <sup>19</sup> if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, <sup>20</sup> an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— <sup>21</sup> you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? <sup>22</sup> You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? <sup>23</sup> You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? <sup>24</sup> As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."*

*<sup>25</sup> Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. <sup>26</sup> So then, if those who are not*

*circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?* <sup>27</sup> *The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.*

<sup>28</sup> *A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.* <sup>29</sup> *No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.*

## **Discussion Questions**

### **1. Preparation**

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

### **2. Sunday Questions:**

1. From Jesus' sermon on the mount, *"Do not judge... Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"* (Matt 7:1,3). Do you tend to judge others? How do we avoid judging others?

2. Consider the questions Shawn posed from the believers' perspectives at PBCC: Aren't we the religious ones of our day? Aren't we the people of God now? Don't we have the revealed Word of God? Don't we know the truth? Don't we have "Bible" in our name here at PBCC? Based on Paul's list of the five perceived advantages that the Jews felt as God's people in Paul's days, do we at PBCC suffer the same spiritual blindness as the Jews - feeling theologically superior and protected from God's judgment?

Shawn warns of this danger in the church today. Knowing the amazing truth of the Gospel is a great privilege. How do we live out this knowledge so people know we follow Jesus?

3. How are we going to answer the five questions posted by Paul to religious people?

- *You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?*
- *You who preach against stealing, do you steal?*
- *You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?*
- *You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?*
- *You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?*

How do we live our lives so as not to become an embarrassment to God and turn people away from God?

4. Paul talks about circumcision as an important identity marker for the Jews, a sign of the covenantal promises granted to Abraham and his family by God. But it has turned into a ritual and even a magic charm over time. Paul says in Rom.2:29b, "*Circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.*"

How can we have circumcision of the heart from this verse and Deut.10:16 "*Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer*"?

5. From Lucinda's words during worship and Shawn's sermon notes, how does Mic.6:8, "*act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with Him,*" illustrate the New Covenant, inaugurated by Jesus' death and resurrection as a gift of God in our hearts, which brings about "heart circumcision, heart transformation and life transformation"? Give an example from each of the following points.

- The Heart- Nicodemus
- Our Actions - God's show windows
- Humility, humility and humility- repentance and confession