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## The Epistle of the Romans (7)

### Overview of Romans chapter 2

- Romans 2:1-11      *God will judge and reward men according to what they have done*
- Romans 2:12-16    *In His judgment, God will consider the measure of light each has enjoyed*
- Romans 2:17-24    *When tested by God's written law, the Jews are shown to be exposed as justly and certainly to God's wrath*
- Romans 2:25-29    *Circumcision (being a Jew) is only valuable if the heart is changed*

### INTRODUCTION:

In the remaining verses of this chapter, the apostle shows that 'religion' will not save. Glorifying in the fact that 'you possess the truth' doesn't mean that the 'truth has saved you.' The Jews gloried in the fact that the written law was given to them and they were so great advantaged above the Gentiles. But they dishonored God by breaking the written revelation of God and thus were in some way no different than the Gentiles who disobeyed God's revelation in nature and conscience. However, as a matter of fact, the Jews were more guilty. They stand exposed to God's just condemnation for having refused to answer the excellent privileges of having God's revelation of truth the Gentile world did not receive.

The connection between the preceding verses and this section is as follows. Paul stated the *general principles* on which God would judge the world, he now proceeds to his next argument. He will show them how this applies to the Jews.

In driving home this truth, Paul first lists all their privileges but shows at same time that they were failing to live up to them. Ignored privileges will aggravate their judgment. The same is true for us.

1. Paul described in vs. 17-20 how the Jews were uniquely privileged and enjoyed many advantages but they realized not that our privileges bring great obligations. List all the privileges the Jews felt they possessed above the Gentiles.
2. After Paul listed the matters the Jewish people in general boasted about, he came to his question in vs. 21: "... *teachest thou not thyself?*" What is the intention of this question? What is he seeking to drive home?
3. The Jews were confident to be the guide of the Gentiles because they possessed as the only ones, the knowledge of God and His Word.
  - a. If you are confident, what makes you so confident?
  - b. Is it wrong for us to be confident that we have the truth of God in His Word?
4. Is it possible to know God's will and approve of His will while still unsaved?
5. "There is a right and a wrong way of relying on the Law of God." Is this true or false?

6. Paul spoke about making 'thy boast of God.' Are we to boast about God? Consider 2 Cor. 10:17; Phil. 3:3; 2 Cor. 12:9, 10
7. In verses 21-23 Paul provides an x-ray examination of his readers. It appears that he insinuated that his readers were guilty of these sins. What basis did he have to question their integrity? What passages in Jesus' own teaching would be in line with Paul's?
8. What is meant with their committing sacrilege?
9. In vs 24 Paul asserted that through the Jewish religion the name of God is blasphemed. Yet the Pharisees were among the most meticulous zealots in the Jewish' religion. How can such a religious life be a blasphemy of God? Is religious hypocrisy that serious of a sin?
10. Are there areas within our own church life that could be experienced as hypocrisy by the unsaved world or labelled as blasphemy by God Himself?
11. What the main point Paul is driving home in the conclusion of vs. 25-28? (Keep in mind that Paul is *not* teaching that anyone is able to be saved by keeping the law. He is presenting as for the sake of argument as is clear of his repeated 'if...'.)
12. What Biblical and foundational doctrines are combined in vs. 29? Each of them is matter of thanksgiving and praise to God.