

Title: The True Jew

Passage: Romans 2:17-29

Summary:

I. Beware the Name We Bear (v.17-19)

II. Do You Practice What You Preach (v.21-24)

III. True Religion is Cut Into The Heart (v. 25-29)

Songs:

"On Christ the Solid Rock" (<https://youtu.be/GswGE6rQhmE?si=r6lpsw8gWYnihAHg>)

"I set my hope on Jesus" (<https://youtu.be/q-dWxto9-XQ?si=j8rUkW0g2mr7EJzo>)

"All my boast is in Jesus" (https://youtu.be/IHFavEvdYBI?si=_cE6tIXTfW9YbAN)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - How could a person be very religious and yet be lacking a real relationship with God?
 - How can you begin to change some inconsistent behaviors or attitudes in your life this week?
 - In which of your present situations should you be more concerned about pleasing God than pleasing other people.
 - James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?
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Context of Passage:

Romans chapter 1

- All are fallen

Roman's chapter 2

- Tension between Jews and Gentiles

Overview

I. Beware the Name We Bear (v.17-19)

II. Do You Practice What You Preach? (v.21-24)

III. True Religion is Cut Into The Heart (v. 25-29)

Passage:

(Romans 2:17–29)

“But if you bear the name “Jew” and rely upon the Law and boast in God, and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the Law, through your transgression of the Law, do you dishonor God? For “THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU,” just as it is written.

For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law, but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. So if the uncircumcised man observes the righteous requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the Law, will he not judge you who, through the letter of the Law and circumcision, are a transgressor of the Law? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”

EXPOSITION

I. BEWARE THE NAME WE BEAR (v. 17-19)

“But if you bear the name “Jew”

Jew

- Where did this term come from?
 - 2 Kings (Jew = men of Judah)
- Context of passage:
 - Emperor Claudius had evicted people out of the City of Rome.
 - Synagogues had been becoming war zones where riots would emerge.
 - In frustration, then Jews fled and were absent for 5 years.

- When Claudius died, then Jews flooded back into Rome.
 - The church in Rome had been Gentile for 5 years in their prior absence.
 - The result: clash of cultures (Jews vs. Gentiles)

Romans 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Romans 2:10

"but glory and honor and peace to everyone who works good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Romans 3:1-2

"Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God."

Romans 9:4-6

"who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;"

Romans 2:17b-20

"But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God, and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,"

The problem:

- Jewish attitude and perceived safety in their heritage and ethnicity (not in Jesus)

Micah 3:11b

yet they lean on the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us."

misperception: presumption of God. They take God for granted.

John 5:45-46

Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.

Songs:

"On Christ the Solid Rock"

"I set my hope on Jesus"

"All my boast is in Jesus"

1 Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

II. Do We Practice What We Preach (v. 21-24)

Romans 2:21–24

"you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the Law, through your transgression of the Law, do you dishonor God? For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written."

- Question: Do we preach Jesus?
 - Do we practice what we preach?
 - He is faithful. He is steadfast. Even when we are faithless.

Caution: our head often runs ahead of our heart. Our knowledge often runs ahead of our obedience.

What is Paul attacking?

- Not Jews as he is a Jew himself.
 - He is attacking Jewish assurance
- Question: What is the manner of your life?

Matthew 23:1-3

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

2 Timothy 3:5

having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

- People expound false religiosity but fail to be sincere from the heart

What must the heart do before obeying commandments?

- mentions 3 of 10 commandments
 - Theft
 - Adultery
 - Blasphemy

Romans 7:7

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

Ezekiel 36:23

And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

III. TRUE RELIGION IS CUT INTO THE HEART (v. 25-29)

Romans 2:25–29

"For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law, but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. So if the uncircumcised man observes the righteous requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the Law, will he not judge you who, through the letter of the Law and circumcision, are a transgressor of the Law? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God."

Micah 7:19

He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Ezekiel 11:19-20

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Acts 2:37-38

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- After hearing of Jesus and the truth, the people responded.
- "They were cut to the heart"
 - They were circumcised of the heart
 - They repented
- How?
 - God did that.

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.

- Circumcision minus obedience is not circumcision
- Non-circumcision plus obedience is circumcision

But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God."

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his

neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

- New Covenant
 - When Satan seeks to remind us of our past, point to Satan's future.
 - In Christ, we have full confidence in the righteousness of Jesus and our new identity in Him alone.

Isaiah 52:5-6

Now therefore what have I here," declares the LORD, "seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail," declares the LORD, "and continually all the day my name is despised. Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am."

Isaiah 52:13

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

Isaiah 53:3-5

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

- We are right before God because the True Jew (Jesus) sacrificed for us.

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:5-6

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:33-34

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Romans 8:37-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.