

Bible Study — Romans 2:17-29

I. Introduction

- A. Romans 1:18-3:20—The revealing of God’s righteousness in His wrath against sinners
- B. Romans 2:1-5 — Paul’s attack on the Jewish false sense of security in their national identity
- C. Romans 2:6-16 — The principles of God’s judgment
 - 1. Principle #1 — God’s judgment will be based on works
 - 2. Principle #2 — God will judge people based on the light they have received
- D. Romans 2:17-29 — The Law and Circumcision will not save you

II. False Security in the Law (vv. 17-24)

A. Jewish Blessings & Privileges

I. They were Jews

Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV): Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- 2. They had the Law
- 3. They were a light to the nations

- B. All of this led to a false sense of security based on the tremendous privilege of being the recipients of God’s Law

- C. Now as we look at Romans 2:21-24, we see that this blessing of having the law didn't help them
- D. **Bottom Line:** The Law is no safety net for the Jews if they refuse to do what it teaches

III. False Security in Circumcision (vv. 25-29)

- A. Another area in which the Jews had a false sense of security was in their circumcision
- B. The Purpose of Circumcision

Colossians 2:11-14 (ESV): In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

- IV. Paul goes further to assault the Jews' false sense of security in their circumcision
- V. Finally Paul brings to a close his condemnation of the Jews' false sense of security
- VI. The Jew cannot hide from the revelation of the righteous wrath of God behind his national identity
- VII. The good news, as we'll see in two weeks, is that there is a righteousness of God that is revealed apart from the law, and that is the righteousness of Christ that is received by faith