

ROMANS: PART 8
EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL

God's Righteous Condemnation of the Religious Person
"What About The Person In Church?"
Romans 2:17-3:8

Your Reliance on Divine Revelation (The Bible) is Valueless -- When You Break It!
Rom 2:17-24

1. You Have Several Privileges. Vs 17-18.
 - Possession of the Law -- Revelation of God.
 - Boast in God -- The Covenant People of God (Cf. Rev 1-3).
 - Know His will -- The Standards of God.
 - Approve the things that are essential -- The moral discernment of God.
2. You have Several Responsibilities. Vs 19-20.
 - Guide to the blind (Lost people)
 - Light to those in darkness (Isa 42:6f; 49:6)
 - Corrector of the foolish (I.E. the Gentiles)
 - Teacher of the immature (I.E. proselytes, converts)
3. Your Possession of These Things Did Not Exempt You From Their Requirements. Vs 21-24:
 - Hypocrisy -- You do not practice what you preach!
 - Theft (8th Commandment) -- You steal!
 - Adultery (7th Comm.) -- You commit adultery!
 - Idolatry (1st & 2nd Comm.) -- You misuse religion!
 - Blasphemy (3rd Comm.) -- You dishonor God's Name with your life!
4. You are just like the immoral person & the pagan -- you are condemned (Lk 18:9-14).

Your Reliance on Divine Circumcision (Baptism, Lord's Supper, Membership) is Valueless --
When You Do Not Possess the Spiritual Reality! Rom 2:25-29

1. Circumcision has value -- If you perfectly keep the Law's requirements. Vs 25-27.
 - Circumcision - law-keeping = God's judgment.
 - Uncircumcision + law-keeping = God's people (A true "Jew").
 2. Circumcision points to a spiritual reality that all people need. Vs 28-29.
 - Not circumcision of the body (Lev 26:41; Dt 10:16; 30:6).
 - But circumcision of the heart (Ezek 36:26f; 44:9; Jer 9:25ff; New Birth; Cf. Ps 51:7,10).
- APPLICATION:
3. Baptism (Cir's NT counterpart) is a saving work of God that occurs at the point of conversion:
 - Rom 6:1-3 (Cf. I Cor 15:22; II Cor 5:14-18) **Every** Christian is joined to Christ's death & res.
 - Rom 8:5-9 If any person is not joined to Christ through Baptism **he is lost**.
 - I Cor 12:13 It's common to **all** believers -- a **past** event -- **Joins** us to Christ - makes us **one**.
 - Eph 4:4-7 **All** Christians joined to Christ -- none excluded -- else the passage is superfluous
 4. Baptism is a work of Christ made effectual through His Spirit -- not through water:
 - Jn 1:26,31-33; Mt 3:11-12; Mk 1:8; Lk 3:16; I Pet 3:21.
 5. Water Baptism is a sign of salvation (Rom 4:11):
 - Jn 3:5; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Eph 5:26; I Cor 10:17; Rom 6:3; Lk 22:19,20 Points to the work of the Spirit that **must** occur
 6. Water Baptism follows the saving work of God and is not necessary for salvation:
 - Rom 4:11b; Acts 34 & 47; Heb 11:6; Lk 18:9-14; 19:9; 23:3.
 7. Water Baptism cannot cause salvation
 - I Cor 10:1-10: It did not save. Rom 4:7-15a: It does not save. Jn 3:16,30; 5:21; Eph 2:8,9.
 8. Belief in Water Baptism, along with faith in Christ, for salvation means you will be lost:
 - You really **don't trust** Christ as your Savior (His atonement isn't sufficient) Gal 3:2,3.
 - You've **abandoned faith** (means of salvation) -- mutually exclusive from works Gal 3:10-12
 - You must **keep all the Commandments** for salvation. Gal 5:2-3.
 9. The Sacraments have value once you're justified (signs & means of grace). & its commanded!

THE TRUE PEOPLE OF GOD:

	NOT OUTWARD	BUT INWARD (INCLUDING ALL WHO BELIEVE)
Sphere:	Not on or in the flesh	But in the heart (nature)
Agent:	Not by obedience	But by the Spirit
Result:	Not people's approval (<i>"You did something worthwhile"</i>)	But God's approval (He only glorifies His own work)

Objections Answered. Rom 3:1-8.

- Question concerning God's Purpose. Vs 1,2.
"If the Law and Circumcision make no difference -- why did God bother to give them?"
 -They are very important as revelation of God & salvation.
 -Application: We must place a high regard on God's Word & His Sacraments.
- Question concerning God's faithfulness. Vs 3,4.
"If some don't believe His revelation -- will God break His promise to save them?"
 -His faithfulness never fails -- He is true (A priori)
 -The problem is always us -- *We* are the liars.
 -As David said: God will be shown to be just & right when He judges our sin.
 -Application: God is not unfaithful to Church-goers -- He saves any who believe in Christ!
- Question concerning God's justice. Vs 5,6.
"If God is glorified through judging sinners -- isn't that unjust?"
 -If He is unjust, He could not judge -- But His judgment is a given (power & right) Gen 18:25.
 -Application: God will justly condemn the sincere (but unbelieving) Church-goer!
- Question concerning God's holiness. Vs 7,8.
"Well now, doesn't this give us an excuse to sin (We'll glorify God!)"
 -Proof of how wicked you really are (you twist His truth to justify your sin)
 -You deserve judgment.
 -Application: *"Why would God send good Church-goers to Hell, just because it glorifies Him?"*
Isn't that arrogant?! Why make sincere people pay for His glory? Lets just forget this Christianity business!" When we say this we prove that we do not grasp our depravity or God's holiness. Indeed, our proclivity to "give up & go our own way" is proof that we Hate Him.