

# **Romans 2:17-29**

## ***Chocking on our halo***

### **3. Special revelation condemns man. (2:17-3:8)**

#### **a. Man did not keep the law of God (2:17-29)**

##### **1. Doctrinal arrogance. (2:17-20)**

“<sup>17</sup> But if you bear the name “Jew,” and rely upon the Law, and boast in God, <sup>18</sup> and know {His} will, and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, <sup>19</sup> and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, <sup>20</sup> a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,

##### **2. Ethical hypocrisy. (2:21-24)**

<sup>21</sup> you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, do you steal? <sup>22</sup> You who say that one 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, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? <sup>24</sup> For “*the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,*” just as it is written.

##### **3. Sacramental superficiality. (2:25-29)**

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> If therefore the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? <sup>27</sup> And will not he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter {of the Law} and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law? <sup>28</sup> For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. <sup>29</sup> 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.”

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### ***The point***

***As long as we hide behind religious systems to deny our need for the righteousness of faith, we will not experience the life promised us in Christ.***

***The Spirit of Christ who is our comforter, inspires Paul to take away our hiding places so that we will see our need and fully appreciate the cross.***

### ***Audit questions for our soul***

**Do we feel spiritually secure and superior because we “believe the Bible” and are orthodox in our theology?**

***What we really believe as revealed in our choices?***

**Are we selective in how we keep score spiritually?  
We are only as holy as our weaknesses.**

***Are we holy when graded on our weaknesses not our strengths?***

**Are we feeling eternally secure because we had a conversion experience and were baptized?**

***Do we look and act like converted baptized believers?***

***The basic question is this:***

*To what extent are we to find security in our own religious experience and moral merit? Paul sees no place for such security, do we?*

***Two challenges for the modern church***

***Liberal  
apostasy***

**The church's  
concern**

***Triumphal  
hypocrisy***

**The Scripture's  
concern**

***Satan's fall***

**Romans 2:17-29**

**Matthew 23**

# I Corinthians 4:6-13