

Romans 2:17-29 **Jews – Gentiles - Circumcision and the Law**

Arrogant confidence of the Jews

17 Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, 18 and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?

24 For "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written.

Circumcision of the Flesh / Circumcision of the Heart

25 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? 27 And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law?

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Arrogant confidence of the Jews

- ✚ Jews are proud of the fact that they have been given the Law of God and as God's chosen people they boast of their position before God. [Romans 2:17-20, Luke 18:9-14]
- ✧ Jews know God's Will, approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the Law.
- ✧ Jews are confident that they are a guide to the blind, a light to those in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes.
- ✧ Jews have the form of knowledge and truth in the Law.
- ✚ Paul challenges the Jews for their influence in the world by asking some serious questions. [Romans 2:21-23]
- ✧ Do you break the commandments you teach to others, do you steal, commit adultery?
- ✧ You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
- ✧ You who make your boast in the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law? [Romans 2:23, Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:5-13]
- ✚ The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of the Jews with their traditions of men handed down from generation to generation that make the commandments of God ineffective. [Romans 2:24, Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:5-13]

Circumcision of the Flesh / Circumcision of the Heart [Romans 2:25-29]

- ✚ Circumcision is profitable as a descendant of Abraham if you keep the Law. [Romans 2:25, Genesis 17:9-14, 18:16-19]

- ✧ If you break the Law, your circumcision has become as uncircumcision.
- ✚ If an uncircumcised Gentile keeps the righteous requirements of the Law, his uncircumcision will be counted as circumcision. [\[Romans 2:26-27\]](#)
- ✚ God looks at the heart to determine who are counted as Jews and children of Abraham through faith. [\[Romans 2:28-29\]](#)
 - ✧ Circumcision of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the flesh outwardly in the letter.
 - ✧ Those circumcised in the heart receive praise from God, not from men.