

Epistle to the Romans 2:17-29

Romans 2:1-16 Main Points

- 2:1 He who judges condemns himself.
- 2:2 God judges evildoers.
- 2:4 God is good and wants to save.
- 2:5 God repays everyone's deeds...
- 2:7 Some with everlasting life...
- 2:9 Others with trouble and distress.
- 2:12 God rewards doers, not doers only.
- 2:14 Gentiles' conscience is their law.

2:17-18. What are some advantages to being a Jew?

¹⁷ But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of your relation to God ¹⁸ and know his will and determine what really matters because you are instructed in the law, ...

- What are some advantages to being a Jew?
- How does one gain those advantages?

2:19-20. What are some advantages to knowing the Scriptures?

¹⁹ and if you are sure that you are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth, ...

- What are some advantages to those who know the Scriptures well?
- Whom do you teach from Scripture?

The Scriptures

- The (Holy) Bible
- The Word (of God)
- The Canon
- The Old and New Testaments
- The Law, Prophets, Psalms, Writings
- The Gospels, Acts, Epistles, Revelation
- The Sword of the Spirit
- The inspired writings / texts
- How many 'books' are there in your Bible? In the Canon? Does it include the Apocrypha?

WHO ACCEPTS THE APOCRYPHA?			
CRAIG EVANS, NONCANONICAL WRITINGS AND NEW TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION (PEABODY, MA: HENDRICKSON PUBLISHERS, 1992), 189.			
ROMAN CATHOLICISM	GREEK ORTHODOX	RUSSIAN ORTHODOX	COPTIC
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2:21-22. How to identify a hypocritical Bible teacher?

²¹ you, then, who teach others, will you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

- How to recognize someone's hypocrisy?
- What is wrong robbing pagan shrines to false gods?

Did Jews rob temples?

- In Antiquities 18.81-84, Josephus recounts a scandal in Rome (c. AD 19). Four Jewish men convinced a Gentile woman to donate to the Jerusalem temple, but they embezzled the funds.
- So Emperor Tiberius expelled 4,000 Jews from Rome.
- Roman law treated temple robbery as a capital offense.

- Roman satirists and historians, Tacitus and Juvenal, expressed disdain for Jewish customs, often accusing Jews of secrecy, misanthropy, and financial exploitation.
- There is no extant record of Jews who robbed pagan temples of shrines.
- Rabbis insisted on Jews maintaining scrupulous conduct towards temples.

2:23-24. How might a Bible teacher dishonor God?

²³ You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by your transgression of the law? ²⁴ For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the gentiles because of you."

- Written: Isaiah 52:5 (c. 740-680 BC).
- Blaspheme: To insult or to disrespect.
- Law: Jews counted 613 laws in the Tanach (First/Old Testament).

2:25-26. Should we circumcise baby Howey?

²⁵ Circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you are a transgressor of the law your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ So, if the uncircumcised keep the requirements of the law, will not their uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?

- Value: What value? Religion, hygiene, ethnicity. Males only!

2:27-28. When can circumcision be hypocrisy?

²⁷ Then the physically uncircumcised person who keeps the law will judge you who, though having the written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law. ²⁸ For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision something external and physical.

- Will judge: How? When? Why?
- Keeps: Yes, some people keep the law.

2:29. What makes someone a real Jew?

²⁹ Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not the written code. Such a person receives praise not from humans but from God.

- Inwardly: Where is that? Not?
- Spirit: What or who is the Spirit?
- Written: What code?
- Praise: Who praises whom?

Christian legal codes

- Clothing: Plain, old-fashioned clothes.
- Clergy: Who may preach, teach, opine, baptize, serve communion. Gender?
- Liturgy: Rituals, music, leadership.
- Bible: Acceptable language, version, edition, notes, publisher, cover.
- Doctrine: What happens in baptism, communion, preaching, prayer...

What do you take from this Scripture passage?

What will you change or do because of this text?

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