

## Session # 9: “WHO IS A JEW ?” — Romans 2:17-29

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - [philtwente@att.net](mailto:philtwente@att.net)

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

### Questions:

- What is the standard of your righteousness? Yours or the Lord’s?
- Can you think of anything you have done that has caused others to blaspheme the name of the Lord?
- Are you circumcised? Who circumcised you? Where is the place where real circumcision takes place?
- What is the relationship of physical circumcision to your being saved?
- Do Gentiles look at infant baptism the same way Jews look at circumcision?
- What is the purpose of circumcision as prescribed in the law?

### THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - *Romans 1:18-8:39*

Principle #1 - CONDEMNATION - 1:18-3:20

1A. CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO **REJECT** THE REVELATION OF GOD - ROMANS 1:18-32

2A. CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO **REBUKE** OTHERS WHILE IGNORING THEIR OWN DEEDS - ROMANS 2:1-16

3A. CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO RELY UPON THEIR OWN STANDARDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - ROMANS 2:17-3:8 – This certainly applies to “religious” people!

The word “**Jew**” comes from the word “**Judah**” (praise) one of the twelve tribes, and seems to have been used after the Assyrian captivity of the ten northern tribes. It is used 32 times in the Bible, 10 of which are in the OT, and 8 of those in the book of Esther.

The plural word “**Jews**” is used 257 times in the Bible, of which 175 usages are in the NT - 139 of those in the gospel of John and the book of Acts.

The word “**Hebrew**” or “**Hebrews**” is used 47 times, while the word “**Israelites**” appears 19 times. The number one description of these chosen people is the “**children of Israel**” - used 644 times in the Bible.

The term “**the Jews**” is used often to refer to the religious leaders - especially in the gospel of John.

The issue in this section deals with the importance of inward commitment over mere outward performance. This is illustrated in two areas: Jewish claims and Jewish circumcision - cf. *John 8:31-59*

### 1B. Personal CLAIMS to be righteous are hypocritical when they are not backed up by a godly lifestyle-17-24

*Rom 2:17* Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God,

*Rom 2:18* and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, **being instructed** out of the law,

*Rom 2:19* and are confident that you yourself are **a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,**

*Rom 2:20* **an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes,** having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

1C. The **Pride** of such claims does not fool God - 17-20 - cf. *Obadiah 3-4*

1D. In **terms of your acknowledgment of God and His Word** - 17-18

1E. **Their relationship to God as His chosen people** – 17 - cf. *Psa. 135:4*

2E. Their regard for God's will and commands – 18 - “being instructed” – catechism - cf. Rom. 9:4-5; Phil. 3:3-9 - cf. Psalm 119:98-100

2D. In terms of your attitudes toward other people - 19-20 - cf. Prov. 26:12; Isa. 5:21

1E. A guide to the blind - Matt. 23:16-22; John 9:40-41

2E. A light to those who are in darkness - cf. Isa. 49:6b - But, we don't do it!

3E. An instructor of the foolish - cf. John 7:47-49; 1 Cor. 3:18

4E. A teacher of babes - John 9:34 - cf. Matt. 11:25 – Oh, this issue of pride!

Rom 2:21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

Rom 2:22 You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

2C. The Problem of such claims is seen when a person's conduct does not match what he or she claims - 21-24

1D. The reasons behind this problem - 21-23

1E. They disregard their own need for instruction - 21a – *You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?*” - Psa. 50:16-23

2E. They disobey what God forbids - 21-22

1F. In the case of stealing - cf. Isa. 56:11; Ezek. 22:12; Mal. 3:8-10

2F. In the case of adultery - Jer. 9:2-3; Ezek. 22:8-12

3F. In the case of sacrilege - “rob temples” - Jer. 7:8-11

Rom 2:23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?

3E. They dishonor God – 23 - cf. Jer. 8:8-9

Rom 2:24 For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you” as it is written.

2D. The result of this problem – 24 - cf. Isaiah 52:5; Lam. 2:15-16 “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you” - cf. Ezek. 36:20-23; 2 Sam. 12:14

2B. Physical CIRCUMCISION does not guarantee one's position before God - 2:25-29

Jewish Rabbis have taught: “no circumcised man will be lost” and “Abraham stands at the gates of hell, seeing that no circumcised man is cast into it.”

Rom 2:25 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

1C. The Profit of circumcision - 25a - cf. Gen. 17:9-14; - cf. Gal. 5:1-3; 6:13, 15

Rom 2:25 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

Rom 2:26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?

Rom 2:27 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?

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;

2C. The Power of circumcision alone to make one righteous - 25b-27 - cf. Jer. 9:25-26; Acts 10:34-35

3C. The Purpose of circumcision - Joshua 5:2-5; 7-9; Acts 15:5-11

1D. Sign of faith - (on the part of parents who believe God's promise to Abraham)

2D. Sign of separation - from sin and the world -

Rom 2:29 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.

4C. The Place where circumcision takes place – 29 - “of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter” - cf. Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Acts 7:51; Phil. 3:3 - Oh, how we need circumcision of our hearts!!! Are you truly living after the Spirit or after the flesh?