



Why Religion Cannot Save

Romans 2:17 – 3:8

Romans 3:1-9

1 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? **2** Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? **4** Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged.”

5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) **6** Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?

7 For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? **8** And why not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”? —as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin ...

Romans 2:17-20

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

Romans 2:21-23

You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?

You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

**Religious
practices**



**Religious
knowledge**



**Faith
in God ?**

Romans 2:25-29

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

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

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?

Romans 2:25-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; **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.

Romans 3:1-2

What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles* of God.

* “whole revelation”, “very words”, “Holy Scriptures”

Romans 2:21-24

You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?

You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? **For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written**

2 Timothy 3:5

“having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people!”

Romans 2:21-24

You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?

You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? **For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written**

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“having a **form** of godliness but **denying**
its power...”

Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; **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.**

Romans 2:28-29

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

Reflect

- ☞ Is going to church for us a religious routine, or **an act of faith**?
- ☞ Is our primary concern in life, **praise from God** or approval by men?
- ☞ Are we Christians only in form, or also in **power**?
- ☞ Has all our years of Christian activities **brought about a real change in our heart, and formed in us the love and humility of Christ**?