

29-Jan-2023 | Discussion Questions
God's REAL People | Romans 2:17-29 | Pr. Wallace Ong

1. In Romans 2:17-24, Paul describes the Jews who considered themselves better than others because they rely on the law. They assumed that they had a good relationship with God. However, they broke the very same law. How is this attitude might be found in today Christians as well? (Romans 6:1-23, Titus 2:11-14)

2. Read vv23-24.
 - a. What was the ultimate tragedy of the Jews?

 - b. What does this tell us about the purpose of the Christian life and why God saves us? (Ephesians 2:10, 1Peter 2:11-12)

3. Read 18:9-14. The parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.
 - a. Tax collectors were despised by the Jews as sinners and traitors. Discuss the gospel implications that this despised tax collector was justified while the religious pharisee was not. (Matt 3:7-10, Romans 2:4-5, Romans 3:21-26)

 - b. What do we learn from this passage?

4. In the Old Testament, circumcision was an external sign as a mark of being Jewish – set apart by God - from other nations. It was a physical sign and a religious ritual meant to point towards a spiritual reality. In vv 25-29, Paul indicts the Jews for relying on the sign rather than heart transformation. (Matt 23:5-39, Matt 7:21-23)
 - a. How are we also tempted to trust in external things over spiritual realities?

- b. What does it mean to have a circumcised heart (v. 29, Jeremiah 4:4, Phil 3:3, Col 2:11-14, Deuteronomy 30:6)?

 - c. How have you sensed the Spirit at work in your heart? (Galatians 5:16-18, Galatians 5:22-25)

 - d. Discuss ways a healthy church culture can foster the pursuit of heart transformation rather than mere externally religious forms? (Eph. 4:1-2, Eph. 4:20-32, Eph. 5:1-2, Philipians 2:1-5, Galatians 5:13-15)
5. We have been entrusted with the words of God. How should we be using it with great responsibility?

Pray that:

- The Jews to whom Paul was writing had all sorts of misplaced confidence about their special relationship with God. Pray that we are not tempted to trust any other things besides the grace of Jesus Christ alone.
- We count ourselves dead to sin, and alive to God in Christ.
- We live a life that is worthy of the gospel. (Spend a few moments in self-examination to answer this question: “What do people think of God because of me?”)
- PBC to continue persist to have healthy church culture that foster the pursuit of heart transformation rather than mere external religious acts.