

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## NOT ALL JEWS ARE JEWS

*Romans 2:17-29*

### Trusting in the Benefits

*Romans 2:17-20*

- ❑ Jews were boasting in what they had, presenting that they were better because of the benefits they had. They had the Law and this made them special.
- ❑ They boasted in being teachers for all other people and having God's wisdom. *James 3:1*
- ❑ They knew what God expected from people and they approved of what is better because they had the law.
- ❑ They had the relationship to God and others did not.
- ❑ This whole argument revolves around the law because it embodied knowledge and truth.

### The Benefits Are Not Enough

*Romans 2:21-24*

- ❑ If these things are so great, why don't you obey them yourself? This is the convicting argument Paul is giving here. There is some kind of disconnect between what you know and what you do.
- ❑ You commit the same sins even though you have all the knowledge. How can that be?
- ❑ Because you are not different, God's name is blasphemed. You dishonor God by your actions. This final quote comes from *Ezekiel 36:22*. What a great passage for us as believers!

### Physical Circumcision Is Not Enough

*Romans 2:25-27*

- ❑ For Abraham circumcision was a sign of his real saving faith. *Romans 4:11*
- ❑ Abraham gave circumcision to all the males of his household, but for them this circumcision was not a sign of their saving faith. *Genesis 17:10-14*
- ❑ Circumcision was a physical sign of what the true people of God would be like.
- ❑ If you break the covenant, then the sign means nothing. You are no better than the Gentiles who don't even have the law if you break the covenant.
- ❑ In the New Covenant era baptism is a picture of spiritual circumcision or saving faith, which natural Israel did not possess. *Colossians 2:11-12*

### Physical Israel vs. Spiritual Israel

*Romans 2:28-29*

- ❑ The written code (Ten Commandments or Mosaic law) cannot produce a spiritual Israelite. *2 Corinthians 3*
- ❑ Physical Israelites were not the true people of God. *Romans 9:6-7, Galatians 3:29*
- ❑ Only those who trust in Jesus Christ ALONE to save them can gain acceptance by God and his praise. True "Jews" are changed inwardly. *John 14:6*

### How Are We to Respond?

- ❑ We should think of Israel properly. They are an unbelieving picture of the true people of God.
- ❑ All of this should have pointed the Jews to their need that only God could solve. It should point us in the same direction. We depend on the gospel alone.
- ❑ While we are not unbelieving, we must be careful that our actions reflect the people that we really are. Our hearts have been changed and our lives should reflect that fact. Having God's revelation and obedience to it should both be evident in our lives.