

Romans #12-Three Causes of Spiritual Blindness 2:17-29

Why are the Jews so blind?

"But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God, and know His will and approve the things that are essential, 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, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?" (Romans 2:17-21)

They are blinded by their heavenly PRIVILEGES.

There are 7 listed in 17-21...

Their name...

"But if you bear the name "Jew" Jew means "praise"... V29 there is a play on words...Jew...praise...

They relied upon the law.

"and rely upon the Law" No other nation received the law from God.

"Law" 10 times here

They boast in YHWH *"and boast in God"*

They know God's will... *"and know His will"*

They approve that which is excellent...right and wrong ...

"and approve the things that are essential,"

They were instructed by the law *"being instructed out of the Law,"*

They were a guide to the blind.

"and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?" (Romans 2:17-21, LSB)

Isaiah 42:6 *"I am Yahweh, I have called You in righteousness; I will also take hold of You by the hand and guard You, And I will give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations," (Isaiah 42:6, LSB)*

We do this as well: Taking our position in Christ for granted.

We sin....just a little b/c He will forgive us.

This must not be!

We must not take our position in Christ for granted.

They are blinded by hidden HYPOCRISY

you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the Law, through your transgression of the Law, do you dishonor God? For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," just as it is written.

– Romans 2:21-24

3 of the leading sins of the Jews:

Theft

Adultery

Idolatry

““The graven images of their gods you are to burn with fire; you shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it, for it is an abomination to Yahweh your God.” (Deuteronomy 7:25, LSB)

Jesus... Matthew 23:

"Woe to you... hypocrites..."

It is what is on the INSIDE that matters. Do not perform. Do not put on a front. Be changed!

"But I am a good person"

Let's test that. (Good person cartoon if time)

The Jewish people had a religion of outward action, not inward attitude. They may have been moral on the outside, but what about the heart? Our Lord's indictment of the Pharisees in Matthew 23 illustrates the principle perfectly. God not only sees the deeds but He also sees the "thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). It is possible for a Jew to be guilty of theft, adultery, and idolatry (Rom. 2:21-22) even if no one saw him commit these sins outwardly.

How many employers have hired Christian's and witnessed the name of Christ blasphemed as they slacked off or stole or cheated on the clock?

They are blinded by heartless OBEDIENCE...legalism.

For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law, but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. So, if the uncircumcised man observes the righteous requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the Law, will he not judge you who, through the letter of the Law and circumcision, are a transgressor of the Law? 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 which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

– Romans 2:25-29

All this to say that, what matters is not possession of the law or the external act of circumcision but obedience that springs from faith.

Religion cannot save you! But the God of true religion can.

Baptism cannot save you.

The Lord's Supper cannot save you.

Coming to church cannot save you.

Your friends cannot save you.

Your mama cannot save you.

All are under sin, and all need the saving grace of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Kids, mom and dad will fall short.

Minister leaders will fall short.

You will fall short.

All have sinned and fall short... (3:23).

But... praise be to God the Father for Jesus the Son who took our place at the cross and paid for our sin.

The key for us is to realize that we need God's saving grace.

We need to turn to God in repentance.

Psalm 51 a psalm of repentance... A Psalm of David. When Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Psalm 32...Of David.

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

How blessed is the man whose iniquity Yahweh will not take into account, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! – Psalm 32:1-2

Beloved, you must repent of your sins and your own righteousness. Your sin convict you and your own righteousness is incapable of saving you as it too is condemning. You must have the imputed righteousness of Christ credited to your account in order to be saved. and that only happens by grace in Christ.