

**Romans 2:17-29**  
**For the week of October 9, 2022**

**Reflection**

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

Paul anticipates and responds to Jewish objections to what he has written. He imagines Jews protesting somewhat as follows: 'Surely, Paul, you can't possibly treat us as if we were no different from Gentile outsiders? Have you forgotten that we have been given both the law (the revelation of God) and circumcision (the sign of the covenant of God)? Have you overlooked the fact that these three privileges (covenant, circumcision, and law) are themselves tokens of the greatest privilege of all, that God chose us to be his special people? Are you saying that we Jews (who have been uniquely favoured by God's election) are no better off than the Gentiles? How can you disregard these peculiar blessings of ours, which distinguish us from the Gentiles and protect us from God's judgment?'

In reply to such questions Paul writes about the law in verses [17-24](#) and about circumcision in verses [25-29](#), and insists that neither guarantees Jewish immunity to divine judgment. His words are 'a pricking of the balloon of Jewish pride and presumption'. – John Stott

**Observation** (vs. 17-20)

3. Summarize these verses.

**Interpretation**

4. What are the four ways that Jews identify themselves as "righteous" in verses 17 and 18? Why do you think Paul highlighted these?



11. Compare these verses to the following verses and write your response.

Matthew 6:1

Galatians 6:3

Philippians 2:3-4

Titus 1:16

James 1:22-23

I Peter 2:16

**Application**

12. What are the areas of hypocrisy (subtle or blatant) in your life? How is Christ helping you to overcome them?

**Observation** (vs 25-29)

13. What is Paul saying in these verses?

**Interpretation**

14. How can following rites become a stumbling block?

15. Compare these verses to James 2:10 and write your responses.

**Application**

16. In verse 29, Paul highlights how this is “a matter of the heart, by the Spirit<sup>1</sup>”. How has the Holy Spirit been working in you with your heart intentions, attitudes, and behaviors through these studies in Romans?

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 2:29.