

Roamin' Thru Romans-Part 9

A detailed study/analysis of the Book—Sunday Night Series

May we stand please...

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:17—29

Prayer:

Romans 2 may be divided into four major parts as follows:

- A. The Purity in the Judgment (Romans 2:1-5)
- B. The Performance in the Judgment (Romans 2:6-10)
- C. The Parity in the Judgment (Romans 2:11-16)
- D. The Privilege in the Judgment (Romans 2:17-29)
(today)

Chapter summary. Most of Paul's Jewish readers would with delight "pass judgment" on the Gentiles the apostle describes in [1:26-32](#).

But Paul quickly silences them.

The previous chapter (1) spoke of the indictment of mankind. Man was a great sinner.

Today's Subject: The Privilege in the Judgment

Introduction: The emphasis comes back to the Jews in this last section of Romans 2.

The Jews had great spiritual privilege and advantage, which we have noted earlier, and which will be noted again in Romans 3.

Here we are told some important facts of this privilege and how the Jews reacted to it and how it is involved in the judgment of God upon sin.

I. The Precepts in the Privilege (Romans 2:17)

"Restest in the law" ([Romans 2:17](#)).

The great privilege cited here is the possession of the law which is the Word of God.

II. The Profit of Privilege (Romans 2:17, 18)

A twofold blessing in the privilege of having the Word of God is given here to show some of the profit in the privilege of having the Word of God.

A. *Being Informed regarding God's will.*

"Knowest his will" ([Romans 2:18](#)).

This profit from privilege is a choice blessing.

Knowing the will of God is one of the greatest blessings you can ever have.

In fact, if there is one thing, we must know to get along with God, it is His will for our lives.

We need to be *"filled with the knowledge of his will"* ([Colossians 1:9](#)).

"Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" ([Ephesians 5:17](#)).

"This is the will of God... that ye should abstain from fornication" ([I Thessalonians 4:3](#)).

Paul said his calling was in accordance with the will of God. *"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God"* ([II Corinthians 1:1](#)).

A second blessing/profit of having the Word of God is...

B. ***Having Insight regarding what is good.***

"Approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law" ([Romans 2:18](#)).

Holy insight and discernment come from the Word of God.

It is vital to know the difference between right and wrong.

It is the Word of God that teaches us right from wrong, that gives us discernment in the important matters of life.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" ([Psalm 119:105](#));

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" ([Psalm 119:130](#)).

Ignorance in the most important matters of life says the ignorant one is not spending much time in the Word.

III. **The Pride from Privilege** ([Romans 2:19-24](#))

Privilege, if not treated properly, will lead to pride, as it did with the Israelites.

A. ***The confidence in pride.***

"Thou art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes" ([Romans 2:19, 20](#)).

The religious leaders in Jesus' time were arrogant snobs who thought they could teach the heathen about righteousness, but Jesus told them they were nothing but *"blind leaders of the blind [and] both shall fall into the ditch"* ([Matthew 15:14](#)).

B. ***The challenge for pride.***

"Thou... which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?" ([Romans 2:21, 22](#); cp. [Romans 2:1](#)).

Their pride from privilege led to hypocrisy.

C. **Their corruption from pride.**

"Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonorest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you" (Romans 2:23, 24).

The pride that comes by misusing privilege made these Jews a poor testimony to the heathen. They profaned God, blasphemed Him because of their pride.

IV. **The Perspective of Privilege (Romans 2:25-29)**

Circumcision was a **privilege** given to the Jews through Abraham (Genesis 17:9-14), which they in pride valued so much that they referred to other nations as the *"uncircumcised"* (Judges 15:18; I Samuel 14:6, 31:4; Ezekiel 32:27).

A. **The consequences of privilege**

"For circumcision verily profiteth" (Romans 2:25).

The value of circumcision was that it was a continual reminder of the covenant between God and Abraham (Genesis 17:11) and therefore an inspiration to godly living.

B. **The condition for privilege.**

"Profiteth, if thou keep the law" (Romans 2:25).

The condition for circumcision to be of value, as God intended it to be, was obedience to the law.

C. **The canceling of privilege.**

"If thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision" (Romans 2:25).

Circumcision ceases to be circumcision if one is disobedient.

D. **The conduct for privilege.**

"Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?" (Romans 2:26).

This is the spiritual view.

Literal circumcision is in the flesh, but it is the spiritual application that makes it important.

"Ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Colossians 2:11).

D. **The condemnation of privilege.**

"Shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?" (Romans 2:27).

If the unprivileged (uncircumcised) obey the law (by receiving Christ as Savior), they will condemn those who are **privileged** (circumcised), as the unprivileged do better spiritually than the **privileged**.

E. **The character for privilege.**

"He is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not the letter" ([Romans 2:28, 29](#)).

The Jews are considered God's people; however, God's people require more than just a physical relationship, but a spiritual relationship—a heart yielded to God.

Closing: So, we will stop here for today!

Christ argued this truth with the religious leaders during His earthly ministry when He said, *"If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham... If God were your Father, ye would love me" ([John 8:39, 42](#)).*

Do you know this Jesus that the Book of Romans so clearly teaches us about?

If not, will you accept Him today?

Are you willing to forsake your sin (of judging others) and thank God for His wonderful grace?

*Beach, B. 12/3/23 a.m. WHBC, Dalton

*This outline borrowed from: *Analytical Bible Expositor – Romans*. Other portions of this sermon were taken from various sources and commentaries.