

ROMANS
Our Message to the World
AMEN Bible Study 2015-2016

Judged: Inside or Outside the Church

Romans 2:17-3:8

October 15, 2015

I. Our religious knowledge does not make us acceptable to God.

A. Exposed by our focus.

¹⁷ But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God ¹⁸ and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; ¹⁹ and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—²¹ you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? ...

B. Exposed by our behavior.

... While you preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

C. Exposed by the world.

²³ You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. ²⁴ For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

II. Our religious rituals do not make us acceptable to God.

²⁵ For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶ So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

A. True religious practice must come from an inward faith.

B. True religious practice must be of the heart.

C. True religious practice must be by the Holy Spirit.

D. True religious practice must be for the praise of God.

III. Are you sure there isn't some advantage to being religious?

A. What's the point of being in a church?

³ Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

B. Are you saying that few people being unfaithful affect God's faithfulness?

³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

C. Why does God judge me if my unrighteousness brings Him glory?

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?

D. So why not sin more that God might receive more glory?

⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.