



GRACE-POWERED LIVING

A Study of the Book of ROMANS

**HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT
BEING RELIGIOUS** – Romans 2:17-3:9

March 9, 2014 | 9:15 & 10:50am

Introduction: Religion has sent more people to Hell than any other factor. We will discover why that is true in today's passage.

I. Three Excuses of Religious People (Romans 2:17-29)

Romans 2:17 "But if you bear the name 'Jew' and rely upon the Law, and boast in God,"

A. Excuse #1: "Examine My Religious Heritage." (Romans 2:17a)

Romans 2:17a "But if you bear the name 'Jew'..."

John 8:37-40, 44 "37 'I know that you are Abraham's offspring; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father.' 39 They answered and said to Him, 'Abraham is our father.' Jesus said to them, 'If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. 40 But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.'"

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Galatians 3:7-9 ⁷Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the nations shall be blessed in you.' ⁹So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer."

B. Excuse #2: "Look At My Biblical Knowledge." (Romans 2:17b-24)

Romans 2:17b "...and rely upon the Law, and boast in God,"

Romans 3:1-2 ¹Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? ²Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God."

Romans 2:18-24 ¹⁸and know His will, and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, ¹⁹and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, ²¹you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, do you steal? ²²You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? ²⁴For 'The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,' just as it is written."

C. Excuse #3: "Watch My Religious Works." (Romans 2:25)

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Romans 2:25 "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."

Colossians 2:11 "And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;"

Romans 2:28-29 "²⁸For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹But 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."

II. Genuine Righteousness vs. Empty Religion

A. Righteousness Results in Works, Religion Results in Words.

Romans 2:7-10 "⁷to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; ⁸but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. ⁹There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, ¹⁰but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

B. Righteousness is Based on God's Effort, Religion is Based on Our Efforts.

Conclusion