

Romans 2:17-29

ReCharge Worship & Bible Study

November 5, 2025

Last week: Judge not. God looks at our hearts and provides us a conscience as a moral compass that points to the best version of ourselves and our highest potential in life.

The Jews Guilty as the Gentiles, Verses 17-20:

Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, 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, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

Lessons to learn:

- Since the days of Abraham and establishment of Judaism the Jews have known God through ancestral knowledge and, after Moses, the Law
- Judaism has uniquely qualified them to lead those who do not know God, to God
- However, the very reason Paul is writing to the Jewish believers in the Roman church is because they have benefit of centuries of experience and spiritual knowledge, but aren't living it out
- They should be:
 - Guiding the "blind"
 - A light to those in darkness
 - Instructors of the foolish
 - Teaching babes in Christ
- Instead they know what's right but don't do it. Spiritual pride and hypocrisy are at work
- They see others' faults, but not their own blindness
- Paul is saying it's not enough to know the truth, it has to be lived
- Having the Law (or Word of God, Bible) doesn't make us right with God; letting it transform us does

FFT: Are we guides and lights, or is godliness out of sight, out of mind?

The Jews Guilty as the Gentiles, Verses 21-24

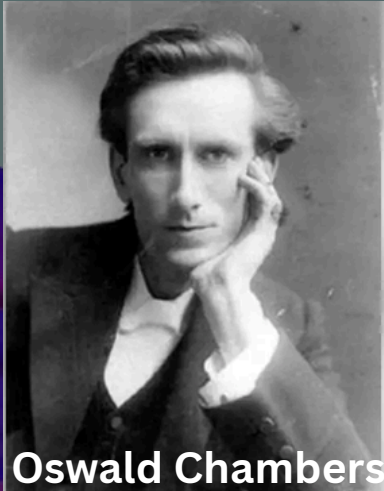
You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written.

Lessons to learn:

- Respect for God and His reputation are at stake. Hypocrisy diminishes His power in the eyes of others
- Our personal integrity is damaged and truth is not seen in us. Trust is lost (character, reliability are damaged)
- Which is worse; to not believe in God, or to be a believer who bears a false impression of his faith?
- Paul is issuing a universal warning to all generations of believers
- Reasons for living contrary to faith;
 - Faith has not become personal (surface level religion)
 - Witnessing too much hypocrisy
 - Having conflicts in reconciling between God and science (see graphic)
 - Lifestyle choices
 - Cultural or peer pressure
 - Spiritual neglect

“You can no more take a day off from faith than you can take a day off from breathing”

FFT: One of the greatest obstacles to someone’s faith is not ignorance of God but misrepresentation of Him



Oswald Chambers

Hebrew “Yom” = Day or Span of Time (or both)		
View	Meaning of “Day”	Time Span
Literal Day, New Earth Creation	24 hours	6 literal days
Day-Age, Old Earth Creation	Long expanse of time	Possibly millennia



John Lennox

English Intellectual and Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University, internationally renowned speaker and author of several books on the interface of science, philosophy and religion

“Seven Days That Divide the World: The Beginning According to Genesis and Science” by John Lennox

Circumcision Is of No Avail, Verses 25-29 (ERV).

If you follow the law, then your circumcision has meaning. But if you break the law, then it is as if you were never circumcised. Those who are not Jews are not circumcised. But if they do what the law says, it is as if they were circumcised. You have the written law and circumcision, but you break the law. So those who are not circumcised in their bodies, but still obey the law, will show that you are guilty. You are not a true Jew if you are only a Jew in your physical body. True circumcision is not only on the outside of the body. A true Jew is one who is a Jew inside. True circumcision is done in the heart. It is done by the Spirit, not by the written law. And anyone who is circumcised in the heart by the Spirit gets praise from God, not from people.

Lessons to learn:

- Circumcision is the sign of being in covenant with God
(Genesis 17:10–11, Leviticus 12:3)
- It signifies God's chosen people and their separation from the world to Him
When much is given, much is required
(Luke 12:48)
- Faith in Jesus Christ causes circumcision of the heart
- Therefore, all believers are Jews in the covenant sense (see graphic)

Level	Type of Circumcision	Reason	Scripture
Old Covenant	Physical (flesh)	Sign of belonging and obedience to God	Genesis 17:9–11
New Covenant	Spiritual (heart)	Sign of inner transformation by the Spirit	Romans 2:28–29; Colossians 2:11–12

FFT: Heart is the measuring stick of faith



Closing Thought

**Outward relationship and reflection of Christ is powerless without inner obedience.
Are we drawing people toward the Lord or repelling them?**

Spiritual Benefits of the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, Eucharist

- Remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice
- Grace and forgiveness
- Spiritual nourishment and strengthening
- Renewed covenant between God and us
- Unity and shared identity with other believers
- Outward witness and testimony to our faith
- Worship and gratitude toward God
- Bread and cup are small symbols with infinite meaning
- We're encouraged to do it often
- Showing anticipation of Christ's return
- Glimpsing into our eternal future and Marriage Supper of the Lamb
(Revelation 19:9)

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."