

The Book of Romans

I. Paul's Introduction to his Letter (1:1-17)

II. Paul *Declares* Man's Need for God's Salvation and Righteousness (1:18-3:20)

- A. He *Declares* that the Wrath of God is Revealed Against all *Ungodliness* and *Unrighteousness* of Men (1:18-32)
- B. He *Denounces* those who are *Passing Judgment* on others, yet are *Practicing Unrighteousness* themselves (2:1-29)

C. He *Decries* the *Unrighteousness* of the Jews (2:17-3:8)

1. Who *Boast* in the Law and Knowledge of God (2:17-20)

¹⁷ But if you bear the name “**Jew**”
and **rely** upon the **Law** and **boast** in **God**,
¹⁸ and **know His will** and **approve** the things that are **essential**,
being **instructed** out of the **Law**,

¹⁹ and are **confident** that **you yourself** are a **guide** to the **blind**,
a **light** to **those** who are in **darkness**,

²⁰ a **corrector** of the **foolish**, a **teacher** of the **immature**,
having in the **Law** the **embodiment** of **knowledge** and of the **truth**,

2. Who “*Break*” the very Laws that *they Teach* (2:21-29)

²¹ **you**, therefore, who **teach another**, do **you** not **teach yourself**?
You who preach that one shall **not steal**, do **you** **steal**?

²² **You** who say that one should **not commit adultery**,
do **you** **commit adultery**?

You who **abhor idols**, do **you** **rob temples**?

²³ **You** who **boast** in the **Law**, through **your breaking** the **Law**,
do **you** **dishonor God**?

²⁴ For “**THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES**
BECAUSE OF YOU,” just as it is written.

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**.

²⁶ So if the **uncircumcised man** **keeps** the **requirements of the Law**,
will not his **uncircumcision** be **regarded** as **circumcision**?

²⁷ And he who is **physically uncircumcised**, if he **keeps the Law**,
will he not **judge you** who though having the **letter of the Law**
and **circumcision** are a **transgressor of the Law**?

²⁸ For he is **not a Jew** who is one **outwardly**,
nor is **circumcision** that which is **outward** in the **flesh**.

²⁹ But 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**.

Summary Outline

1. **Who Boast** in the **Law** and the **Knowledge of God** (2:17-20)

- a. *Relying* upon **His Law** (2:17)
- b. *Having knowledge* of **His will** (2:18a)
- c. *Approving* the **things** that are **excellent** (2:18b)
- d. *Having been instructed* out of the **Law** (2:17-18)
- e. *Being* a “**light**” to those in **darkness** (2:19)
- f. *Being* a **corrector** the **foolish** (2:20a)
- g. *Being* a **teacher** of the **immature** (2:20b)
- h. *Having* the **embodiment** of **knowledge** and **truth** (the **Law**) (2:20c)

2. **Who “Break”** the very **Laws** that *they Teach* (2:21-29)

- a. *Disobeying* the very **commandments** they **teach others** (2:21-22)
- b. *Dishonoring* the **name of God** among the **Gentiles** (2:23-24)
- c. *Devaluing* the **sign** (circumcision) of their **covenantal calling** (2:25-29)

Personal Application *Spiritual Circumcision*— The **Circumcision** of the **Heart**

A. A *Priority* in **both Testaments**

“Know, then, *it is not* because of **your righteousness** that the **LORD your God** is giving you this **good land to possess**, for you are a **stubborn people**...

Circumcise then **your heart**, and stiffen your neck **no more**.”
(Deuteronomy 9:6, 10: 16)

“**Circumcise** yourselves to the **LORD** and remove the **foreskins of your heart**, men of **Judah** and the inhabitants of **Jerusalem**, or else **My wrath** will go forth like **fire**...”

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the **LORD**, “that I will **punish** all who are **circumcised** yet **uncircumcised**--...”
(Jeremiah 4:4, 9:25)

For he is not a **Jew** who is one **outwardly**, nor is **circumcision** that which is **outward** in the **flesh**.

But 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**.
(Romans 2:28-29)

B. A *Procedure* performed on those who are “**in Messiah**”

...and **in Him (Messiah) you** were also **circumcised** with a **circumcision** made **without hands**, in the **removal of the body of the flesh** by the **circumcision of Messiah**;

having been **buried with Him** in **baptism**, in which you were also **raised up with Him** through **faith** in the **working of God**, who **raised Him** from the **dead**.

When **you** were **dead** in your **transgressions** and the **uncircumcision** of your **flesh**, **He** made **you alive together with Him**, having **forgiven us** all our **transgressions**...(Colossians 2:11, 13)

C. A *Process* that “**cuts away**” the **deeds** of the **flesh**

Therefore consider the **members** of your **earthly body** as **dead** to **immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire**, and **greed**, which amounts to **idolatry**...

Do not **lie to one another**, since you **laid aside the old self** with its **evil practices**, and have **put on** the **new self** which is being **renewed** to a **true knowledge** according to **the image** of the **One** who **created him**--
(Colossians 3:5, 9-10)

So then, **brethren**, we are under **obligation**,
not to the **flesh**, to **live** according to the **flesh**—
for if you are **living** according to the **flesh**, you must **die**;
but if **by the Spirit** you are **putting to death** the **deeds** of the **body**,
you will live. (Romans 8:12-13)

D. A *Practice* that is **secondary** to a **righteous life**

“**Circumcision is nothing**, and **uncircumcision is nothing**,
but *what matters is* the **keeping** of the **commandments of God**.”
(I Corinthians 7:19)

“For in **Messiah Jesus** neither **circumcision**
nor **uncircumcision** means anything,
but **faith working through love**.” (Galatians 5:6)

“For neither is **circumcision** anything, nor **uncircumcision**,
but a **new creation**.” (Galatians 6:15)