

Read Romans 2:17-29; 3:19-20



1. What do you think is the purpose of religion?



2. What does God require of those who have the law?



3. Did the Jews meet those requirements?



4. Who is the condemned lawbreaker in verse 27?



5. Does circumcision make a person righteous before God?



6. Will anyone be declared righteous by observing the law?



7. What does the law achieve?



8. Can religious rituals get you closer to God? Or solve the problem of sin?



9. What am I trusting to get me to God? Am I trusting in laws or rituals to make me righteous. If so, what are the implications?



10. Is it possible for anyone to be righteous?

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**Dictionary:** "circumcision" = a genital operation performed on Jewish boys as a sign that they were God's people. It was commanded in the law.

Romans 2:17-29

- 17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God;
- 18 if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law;
- 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark,
- 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth--
- 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?
- 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
- 23 You who brag about the law, do you dishonour God by breaking the law?
- 24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."
- 25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised.
- 26 If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?
- 27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.
- 28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.
- 29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

Romans 3:19-20

- 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.
- 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.