

THE FALSE SECURITY OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

(Romans 2:25-29)

I. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD REVEALED: MAN'S SIN AND GOD'S CONDEMNATION (1:18-3:20)

A. The IMMORAL Man Condemned before God (1:18-32)

B. The MORAL Man Condemned before God (2:1-16)

C. The RELIGIOUS Man Condemned before God (2:17-29)

1. The CLAIMS of the Religious Jew (2:17-20)

2. The CHARGES against the Religious Jew (2:21-24)

3. The CONDEMNATION against the Religious Rites of the Jew (2:25-29)

a. Circumcision was an external rite that symbolized the _____ that God made with Abraham and his descendants. (Gen. 17:9-14)

1) Circumcision was a _____ reminder to Jews of their national heritage, privilege, and _____.

2) Circumcision was _____ of every male Jew according to the Mosaic Law. (Lev. 12:1-3)

3) In order to inherit the covenant promises, a Jew had to be both a physical and _____ descendant, i.e., he had to have the _____ of Abraham. (Gal. 3:5-9)

b. The "for" introduces the argument as a _____ of what was said in the two previous verses- "*You dishonor God and lead the Gentiles to despise Him, for your circumcision is of _____ to you.*" (v. 25a)

c. Because the Jew boasted in his circumcision, Paul made the argument that _____ in the _____ itself was completely meaningless, and would surely invite God's judgment. (v. 25b, cf. Gal. 5:2-4, 11-12)

* What does this say about Christian water baptism today?

- d. A man who is _____ circumcised, but spends his life in _____ to the Law, will stand as a rebuke to the disobedient Jew who is physically circumcised. (vv. 26-27)
- e. Religious ritual without _____ equals uncircumcision in the eyes of God for Jew and Gentile. (Lev. 26:38-42; Deut. 10:14-17; 30:5-6; Jer. 4:4; 9:25-26; Philip. 3:7-9)
- f. Religion always emphasizes the _____ at the expense of the _____. (Matt. 15:1-9; 23:24-28; Col. 2:20-23)
- g. Whether male or female, the _____ Jew or Gentile has a circumcision of the _____. (vv. 28-29, cf. Philip. 3:1-3; Col. 2:11-13)
- 1) God is not looking for more religious rituals, He already has _____ of people making _____ to reach heaven by their own good works.
 - 2) God is desiring a meaningful, intimate _____ with people who have been spiritually _____. (Gal. 6:15)

* How can you personally apply this truth in your own life?