



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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Romans 2:17-29 Study Hints for Discussion

1. If you do not rely on the law, what do you rely on for your salvation. Describe your answer.

I rely on the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior for my salvation. He died on the cross for my sins; He rose from the dead to grant me eternal life and fill me with the Holy Spirit. I am saved by His grace through faith in Him, so I cannot boast but only praise and thank Him for the gift of eternal life. He fills me with the love, peace, and presence of God.

2. The Jews thought that in the law they had the embodiment of knowledge and truth (Romans 2:20). Do you agree or disagree? Give a reason for your answer.

I disagree. The moral law of God imparts knowledge and reveals truth about the true God and His holiness, but the moral law of God does not perfectly embody knowledge and truth—only Jesus could do that. Jesus said He was the way, the truth, and the life. Paul wrote that all the fullness of God dwelt in Christ; “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority” (Colossians 2:9-10). The law shows us our need of Christ and points us to Him for salvation and the power to obey God. In Matthew 5:17, Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

3. Read Romans 2:23 again. How might you rephrase that verse to teach it to a persistently disobedient Christian?

“You who boast in knowing Christ and being a Christian, do you dishonor Christ by disobeying Christ? You dishonor Christ Jesus when you disobey Him.”

4. Would you agree or disagree with the rephrasing or application of Romans 2:25 below?

“Baptism has value if you love and follow Jesus Christ, but if you walk away from Christ you are acting like one who was never baptized.”

5. Do you think Romans 2:29 could refer to both Gentile and Jewish Christians? Why?

Yes. I believe “Spirit” in this verse refers to the Holy Spirit and not our spirit. The Holy Spirit circumcises the hearts of those who trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, and they love and obey Jesus as Jesus commanded. The Holy Spirit inwardly transforms those who repent and place their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. When by the grace of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit leads Christians they will receive praise from God, but not from those who rebel against God, disregard the moral law of God, practice sin, and praise those who practice sin as they do.

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