

ROMANS
2026
April 12, 2026

IV. Sin and its Separation - Romans 1:18-3:20, Part 3: "God Has no Grandchildren"
Romans 2:17-29

Here Paul shows that all have fallen short and need redemption. He begins with speaking to his fellow Jews. Merely being born into a believing family might make one a "cultural" believer—one who goes through the motions but is not truly there. Does the accident of one's birth or following ritual and rules alone make one a believer? If you were raised by Christian parents does that make you a believer?

- 1. Now if you call yourself a Jew, if you rely (or "rest upon") on the law and boast in God.**
 - a. If you [and] know His will and approve ("having tested") of what is superior - because you are instructed by the law.**
 - b. If you are convinced ("confident") that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children ("infants"), [because] you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth -**
 - You then, who teach other(s), do you not teach yourself? (Luke 6:42)
 - You who preach against stealing, do you steal?
 - You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?
 - You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
 - You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? (e.g., Psalm 50:16-21)
 - As it is written, "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." (Isaiah 52:5)
- 2. Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you become as though you had not been circumcised.** In like manner, baptism doesn't mean you are "in" the kingdom. Our trust must be in Jesus, not in baptism, our own works or anything else. (e.g., John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5). On what do you place your trust for salvation? But, *can* anyone observe the law? (Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:1-14)
 - a. So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?** Circumcision was an outward sign of God's covenant relationship with Israel, *not* the covenant itself. Sound familiar? Galatians 6:15; Colossians 2:11-12
 - b. 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 law breaker.** So, what is the issue? The issue is the invalid claim of spiritual high ground by the Jew. Or us!
 - c. A person is not a Jew (or Christian!) who is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.** Look up Matthew 5-7—it is the mind! See also Habakkuk 2:4
 - No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly.
 - And circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.

Such a person's praise is not from other people but from God.

How do you see yourself as a believer? Are you better than others, than unbelievers? Or just better off? It is an important distinction.

Whose job is it to pass judgment on this world? The church needs to speak up for the Lord. But remember, it is His place alone to judge the world (1 Corinthians 5:12-13a)

Those who have received mercy must show mercy. Matthew 5:7; James 2:12-13

How does God desire that we see unbelievers? John 4:34-38