

No One is Righteous

Romans 2:17-3:20



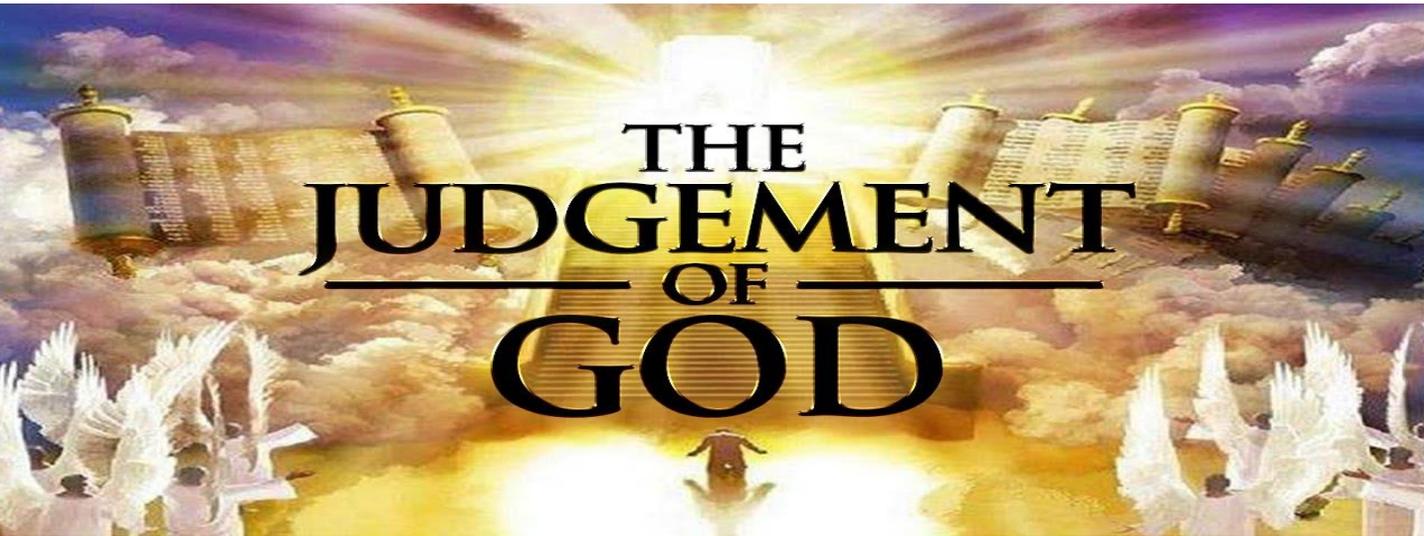
THE BOOK OF

ROMANS

Romans 2:1-16

*The Inescapable,
Impartial, Impeccable
Righteous Judgment of God*

ALL – including the Jews



The Devout Jews Claimed Diplomatic Immunity!

Their Heritage
Pride and Privilege
The law and
circumcision/covenant
Their Practice?



Romans 2:17-3:20

No One is Righteous

- **Romans 2:17-29**

The Jews are guilty and will be judged

- **Romans 3:9-20**

All humans are guilty and will be judged

**The Great White Throne
Judgment
Revelation 20:11-15**

Their Heritage & Pride The Jews and the Law

*¹⁷ Now you, if you call yourself a Jew;
if you rely on the law and boast in 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,*

**Jewish Self-consciousness
and Confidence**



They claimed to be...

²⁰ an instructor of the foolish,
a teacher of little children, because
you have in the law the embodiment
of knowledge and truth.

The problem is:

*They do not live up to their knowledge
or practice what they preach*

**They also steal, commit
adultery, and worship idols**



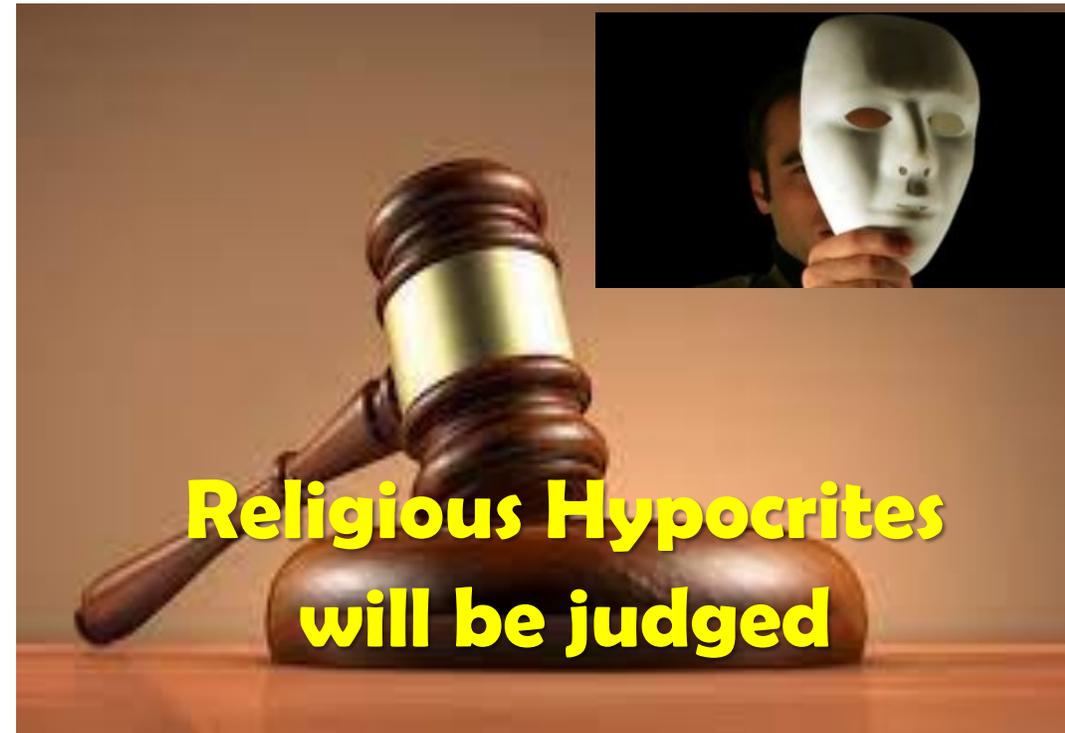
**Religious
Hypocrites**

**Brings dishonour and
blaspheme God's name**

***23 You who boast in the law,
do you dishonor God by breaking
the law? 24 As it is written:
"God's name is blasphemed among
the Gentiles because of you."***

The conclusion:

*Possession and knowledge of the
law do not exempt the Jews from
judgment when they do not practise
what they preach or teach*



Their Privilege - Circumcision

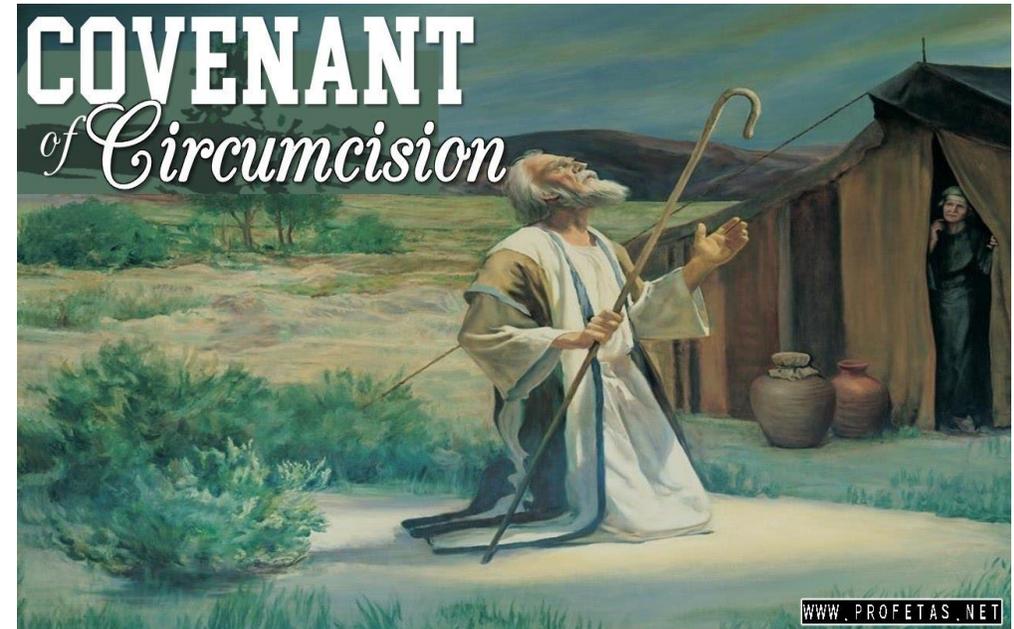
25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. 26 So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?

Circumcision - Obedience

= Uncircumcision

Uncircumcision + Obedience

= Circumcision



A true Jew is:

29 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.

- **Outward & inward, visible & invisible.**
- **Circumcision of the heart, not the flesh.**
- **Effected by the Spirit, not the law.**
- **Wins approval from God, not man.**



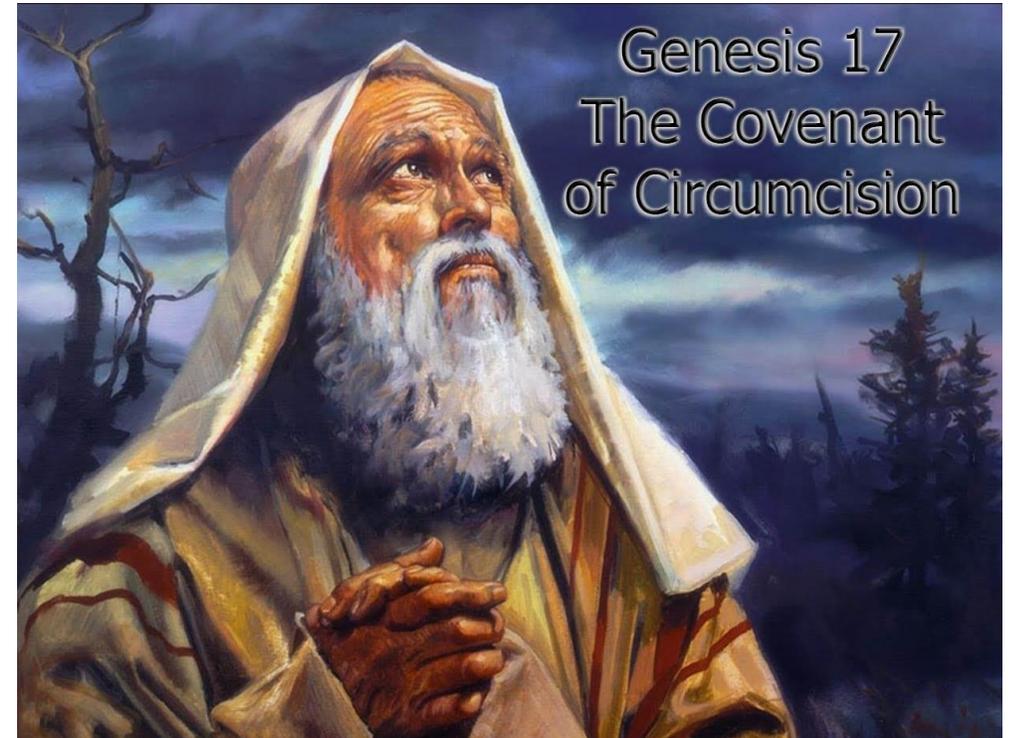
3:1-8 Their Privilege being questioned!

*What advantage, then, is there
in being a Jew, or what value
is there in circumcision?*

**Plenty! But it comes
with responsibilities**

*² Much in every way! First of all,
the Jews have been entrusted with
the very words of God.*

Pass on the word to others!



**If they failed and were judged,
does it mean God is
unfaithfulness in His promise?**

***³ What if some were unfaithful?
Will their unfaithfulness nullify
God's faithfulness?***

***⁴ Not at all! Let God be true, and every
human being a liar. As it is written:
"So that you may be proved right when
you speak and prevail when you judge."***

**NO! God remains
faithful and true in
His word and promise.**



**If Our Unrighteousness
magnifies God's Righteousness**

***⁵ But if our unrighteousness brings out
God's righteousness more clearly,
what shall we say? That God is unjust
in bringing his wrath on us?
(I am using a human argument.)***

Isn't it unjust for God to judge us?

***⁶ Certainly not! If that were so,
how could God judge the world?***

**No! He is a just and righteous God.
That's why He judges.**



**If our unrighteousness
promotes God's glory**

***7 Someone might argue,
“If my falsehood enhances
God’s truthfulness and so
increases his glory, why am I
still condemned as a sinner?”***

Why still condemned us?

Wrong is still wrong

**God’s true glory is promoted
only by good, never by evil**



3:9-20 – All humans are guilty and will be judged

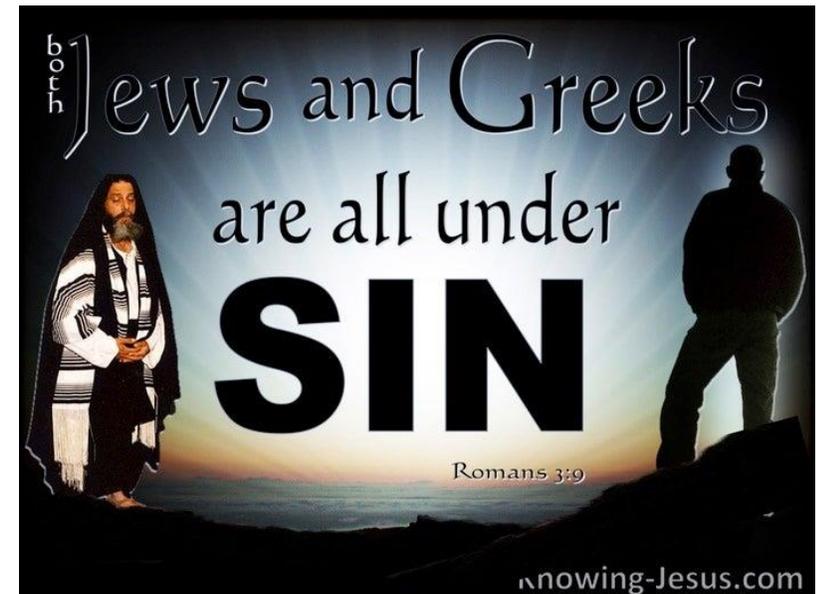
*⁹ What shall we conclude then?
Do we have any advantage?*

*Not at all! For we have already
made the charge that Jews
and Gentiles alike are all
under the power of sin.*

No One Is Righteous

Universality and Pervasiveness of Sin:

A series of seven OT quotations
one Ecclesiastes, five from Psalms, one Isaiah.



V10-12 Universality of Sin

¹⁰ *As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)*

¹² *All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” (Psalms 14:1-3; Ps 53:1-3)*

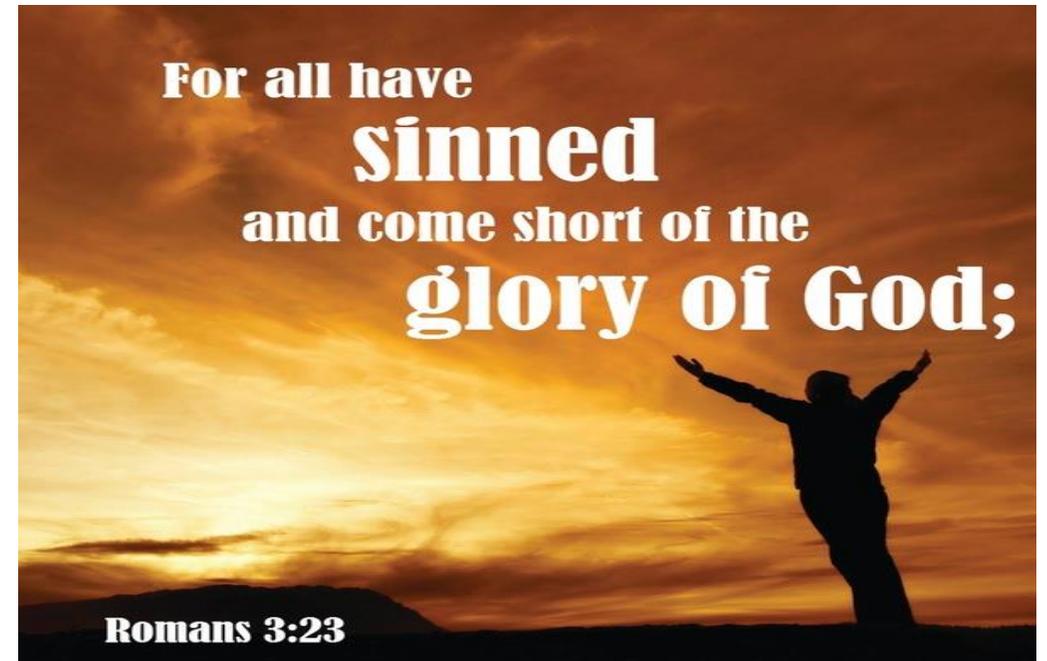
***Ungodliness and
Unrighteousness***



V13-17 Pervasiveness of Sin

- ¹³ “Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit.” (Psalms 5:9)
- “The poison of vipers is on their lips.”
(Psalms 140:3)
- ¹⁴ “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”
(Psalms 10:7)
- ¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;
¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways,
- ¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know.”
(Isaiah 59:7f; Proverbs 1:16)

Total Corruption and Depravity of Man



By the works of the law

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 God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

The whole world is guilty!

Nothing to defend.

The law only exposes our sin



**No one can be saved
by the law**

How can
One be Saved?

In Christ Alone
Our Hope is Found



Romans Outline

- Introduction: Paul and the Gospel 1:1-17
- The Wrath of God against All Humankind 1:18-3:20
 - The Gentiles 1:18-32
 - The Jews 2:1-3:8
 - The Whole Human Race 3:9-20
- The Grace of God in the Gospel 3:21-8:39
 - Righteousness Imputed:
Justification 3:21-5:21
 - Righteousness Imparted:
Sanctification 6-8

