

Passionate Faith or Empty Ritual?

Romans 2:17 thru 3:9

*The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. **Isaiah 29:13***

*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. **Matthew 23:27***

*In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. **Matthew 23:28***

Our faith is to be a matter of inner conviction, not just an empty _____.

God wants an obedience that comes genuinely from our hearts.

*To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **Luke 18:10***

*The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ **Luke 18:11-12***

*“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ **Luke 18:13***

*“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” **Luke 18:14***

*The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” **Genesis 12:1-3***

Externals in which Jews placed their trust

1. The Jews trusted in their _____.

Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God; Romans 2:17

2. The Jews trusted in their _____ of the law.

if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; Romans 2:18

if you are convinced 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 infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— Romans 2:19-20

you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? Romans 2:21

You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? Romans 2:22

You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? Romans 2:23

As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." Romans 2:24

***Superior knowledge does not exempt us from obedience,
it magnifies the necessity of it.***

3. The Jews trusted in _____.

Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. Romans 2:25

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 2:29

1. Question of being chosen by God, Jewish

What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Romans 3:1

Advantage of opportunity, not _____

Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God. Romans 3:2

2. God promised that He would save the Jews

What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness?

Romans 3:3

God's faithfulness is established by _____

*Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge." **Romans 3:4***

3. That God has no right to judge us, because our unrighteousness makes His more clear

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.)

Romans 3:5

God doesn't need _____ to look good

*Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? **Romans 3:6***

4. If I am unrighteous, and God looks holier, then I might as well go ahead and sin, so that God's name will be glorified.

*Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" **Romans 3:7***

We don't do evil that _____ may come of it.

God will judge the world righteously.

Why not say—as we are being slanderously reported as saying and as some claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is deserved.

Romans 3:8

***Christianity is a response of the heart;
it is not the performance of a ritual.***

*"Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." **John 3:2***

*In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." **John 3:3***

*"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" **John 3:4***

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 3:5-6

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

A — Admit in your heart that you have sinned

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

B — Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is God's son, that He died for your sins, and He is risen from the dead

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10

C — Confess Jesus is your Lord publicly, C _____ your life to Him

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come... and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:17 (KJV)

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 11:27

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:28-29

That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 11:30

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. Revelation 3:15-16

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:37-39

Key: ritual, nationality, possession, circumcision, exemption, contrast, unrighteousness, good, Commit