

October 27, 2024

All Hat no Cattle Romans 2:17-29 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 14 Num. 42

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

All Hat no Cattle



This week we will be looking at the second part of Romans 2. In this chapter Paul contrasts the person that is circumcised but not following the Law with the person that is not circumcised and is following the Law. Circumcision was the mark of the covenant with God. Followers of God that kept the Law were circumcised. However, Paul makes the point that living out the Law was more important than circumcision. He even points out the damage that people do when they claim to be a follower and do not live like it. Join us this week as we talk about the responsibility we have as a follower of Christ.

“No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by God’s Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.” (Romans 2:29, NLT)

The Jew Is Condemned by the Law

¹⁷ But if you bear the name “Jew” and rely upon the Law and boast in God, ¹⁸ and know *His* will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, ¹⁹ and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, ²¹ you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? ²² You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? ²⁴ For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.

²⁵ For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter *of the Law* and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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🕒 **Explore His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

1. What does it mean to rely upon the Law?
2. In verses 21-23, Paul lists ways in which teachers of the law fail to obey it themselves. How does this highlight the hypocrisy that can exist within religious communities, and what are some contemporary examples of this?
3. According to Paul, who is a true Jew, and what does this imply about the essence of religious identity versus its outward expressions?
4. If the law does not save, what is its purpose according to Paul's argument?
5. How does this passage influence our view of legalism?
6. How does Paul's argument about true circumcision challenge or expand our understanding of what it means to be marked or identified as a follower of God?
7. What responsibility does one bear having been identified as a follower of Christ?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

8. Paul suggests that breaking the law dishonors God. Discuss how one's personal conduct can either glorify or dishonor Christ, share some examples.

9. Paul criticizes those who teach but do not live according to their teaching. How can religious leaders today avoid this pitfall? What systems or personal disciplines might help maintain integrity? This should include the highest and also the lowest levels of leadership.

10. What do you think is the main point that is being made in this passage and how can you apply it this week?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes