



Practice What You Preach – Romans 2:17-29

Dr. Mike Sterlachini | December 2, 2018

Romans 2: 17-29

¹⁷ But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God¹⁸ and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; ¹⁹ and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— ²¹ you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. ²⁴ For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

²⁵ For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶ So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

1. Romans 2:17-22 – Practicing what you preach requires ongoing quality control.
 - a. We should ask ourselves every day, “Is my life different because of Jesus?”
 - b. Faith in Jesus Christ always results in a changed life.
2. Romans 2:23-24 – Failing to practice what you preach damages God’s name
 - a. The Church is not a building that is filled with perfect people, but it is filled with sinners saved by grace. However, we must still strive for perfection. We must not settle for hypocrisy.
 - b. If we have imperfections in our faith, or hypocrisy, that is all the world will focus on. Despite all of the great things that we do, the world will only focus on our imperfections.
3. Romans 2:24-29 – Practicing what you preach is a heart change.
 - a. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham in the Old Testament.
 - b. Being a follower of Jesus in an inward endeavor; it is a matter of the heart.
 - c. Outward actions do not save us, but they should be the priority of Christians because they are the fruit of the spirit.
 - d. We are able to practice what we preach as a result of the power of the Holy Spirit.