

# The Heart of the Matter

Lesson 4

Romans 2:17-3:8

<b>Bible Text</b> <b>New International Version</b>	<b>Observations</b> <b>What does the text say?</b>	<b>Interpretation &amp; Questions</b> <b>What does it mean to all Christians?</b>	<b>Applications</b> <b>What does it mean to me?</b>
<p><b>Romans 2:17-29</b></p> <p><b>The Jews and the Law</b></p> <p><sup>17</sup> Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; <sup>18</sup> if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; <sup>19</sup> if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, <sup>20</sup> an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—<sup>21</sup> you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? <sup>22</sup> You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? <sup>23</sup> You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? <sup>24</sup> As it is written: “God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”<sup>[b]</sup></p> <p><sup>25</sup> Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. <sup>26</sup> So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law’s requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? <sup>27</sup> The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the<sup>[c]</sup> written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.</p>			

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<sup>28</sup> A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. <sup>29</sup> 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.			
<b>Footnotes:</b>  a. Romans 2:6 Psalm 62:12; Prov. 24:12 b. Romans 2:24 Isaiah 52:5 (see Septuagint); Ezek. 36:20,22 c. Romans 2:27 Or <i>who, by means of a</i>			
<b>Summary:</b>    			
<b>Romans 3:1-8</b>  <b>God's Faithfulness</b>  3 What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? 2 Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.  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:			

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<p>“So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge.”<sup>[a]</sup></p> <p><sup>5</sup> 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.)</p> <p><sup>6</sup> Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? <sup>7</sup> Someone might argue, “If my falsehood enhances God’s truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?” <sup>8</sup> Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—“Let us do evil that good may result”? Their condemnation is just!</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Romans 3:4 Psalm 51:4</p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

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## Authenticity

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### Scriptures:

Deut. 30:6

Matt. 7:3-5

James 1:22-26

### Questions:

Think of a time in your life when your own, or someone else's, hypocrisy served as a stumbling block in your relationship with God or with others. Tell us about that.



