

Justification by the Law of Moses Results in Condemnation by Disobedience

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Key Text: Romans 2:17–29 (NASB 1995)

Supporting Texts: Romans 1:16–17; Romans 2:1–16; Romans 3:27–29; Luke 18:9–14; Philippians 3:5–9; Psalm 50:16–21; Matthew 23:3; Deuteronomy 7:25; Jeremiah 9:23–24; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI_IE-ISjNE

Introduction

- Romans is written to correct serious misunderstandings about law, grace, and justification.
- Paul exalts the gospel as God’s power to save (Romans 1:16–17), not the Law of Moses.
- In Romans 1, Gentiles are shown guilty despite having knowledge from creation.
- In Romans 2, Jews are shown equally guilty despite possessing the Law.
- The problem addressed here: **boasting in possession of the Law while breaking it.**

Thesis:

No one is justified by mere relationship to the Law of Moses. Justification under that Law required **perfect obedience**—and disobedience results in condemnation.

I. The Jews’ Confidence Was Placed in the Law, Not in Obedience (Romans 2:17–20)

- A. They bore the name “Jew” and relied upon the Law.
- B. They boasted in God and claimed to know His will.
- C. They saw themselves as:

- Guides to the blind
- Lights to those in darkness
- Correctors of the foolish
- Teachers of the immature
- D. They believed the Law itself made them secure.

Callout — Warning:

Possessing God's Word is not the same as obeying God's Word.

Callout — Application:

We must not confuse knowledge of Scripture with submission to Scripture.

II. The Proper Function of the Law Was to Instruct, Not to Justify (Romans 2:18)

- A. The Law revealed God's will and standards.
- B. It taught discernment between right and wrong.
- C. It exposed sin but did not remove guilt.
- D. Perfect obedience was required for justification under the Law.

Callout — Teaching Point:

The Law shows what righteousness looks like; it does not create righteousness in sinners.

III. Boasting in the Law Without Obedience Is Hypocrisy (Romans 2:21–24)

- A. Paul exposes hypocrisy with direct questions:
 - You teach—do you not teach yourself?
 - You preach against stealing—do you steal?
 - You condemn adultery—do you commit adultery?
- B. Scripture condemns this hypocrisy (Psalm 50:16–21; Matthew 23:3).
- C. The result: God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of them.

Callout — Rebuke:

When God's people live in contradiction to God's Word, they cause the world to mock God.

Callout — Application:

We must never excuse sin in ourselves while condemning it in others.

IV. External Religion Cannot Replace Obedient Faith (Romans 2:25–27)

- A. Circumcision only had value if the Law was perfectly kept.
- B. If the Law was broken, circumcision became meaningless.
- C. An uncircumcised person who keeps God's requirements stands condemned over the hypocrite.
- D. External marks never compensated for internal rebellion.

Callout — Warning:

Religious rituals never substitute for a faithful, obedient heart.

V. True Identity Before God Is a Matter of the Heart (Romans 2:28–29)

- A. A true Jew is not one outwardly.
- B. True circumcision is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.
- C. God seeks inward devotion, not outward display.
- D. Praise that matters comes from God, not from men.

Callout — Teaching Point:

God has always wanted the heart—never mere externals.

VI. The Law Exposes the Need for Grace

- A. No one kept the Law perfectly except Christ.

- B. Even Paul counted his Law-keeping as loss compared to Christ (Philippians 3:5–9).
- C. The Law shows guilt; the gospel offers forgiveness.
- D. Grace does not permit sin, and law-keeping does not erase sin.

Callout — Warning:

We must avoid two errors:

- Legalism: trusting rule-keeping to save
 - Libertinism: abusing grace as license to sin
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VII. Salvation Is Found in Christ, Not in the Law

- A. The gospel is the power of God to save (Romans 1:16–17).
- B. Christ died, was buried, and rose again (1 Corinthians 15:1–4).
- C. Salvation is received through:
 - Faith in Christ
 - Repentance from sin
 - Confession of Christ
 - Baptism for forgiveness of sins

Callout — Invitation:

Do not trust in heritage, knowledge, or religious form. Trust and obey Christ.

Conclusion / Call to Action

- The Jews trusted the Law but disobeyed it—and stood condemned.
- God has always required the heart, not empty religion.
- The Law exposes sin; the gospel provides salvation.
- If you have never obeyed the gospel, do so today.
- If you are trusting in form instead of faith, repent and return to Christ.

Final Call:

Stop trusting in what you possess. Start trusting in Christ—and obey Him from the heart.

Slide Deck (12 Slides)

Slide 1 — Justification and Condemnation

Main Content:

- Romans 2:17–29
- Law, obedience, and the heart
- Why possession of the Law was not enough

Scripture:

- Romans 2:17–29

Design Intent:

- Light background, dark text
- Serious, teaching-focused tone

Slide 2 — The Problem in Romans

Main Content:

- Gentiles guilty (Romans 1)
- Jews also guilty (Romans 2)
- Both need the gospel

Design Intent:

- Clean layout
- Clear contrasts

Slide 3 — Confidence in the Law

Main Content:

- “We are Jews”
- “We have the Law”
- “We know God’s will”

Scripture:

- Romans 2:17–20

Design Intent:

- Instructional tone
- High contrast

Slide 4 — Knowledge Without Obedience

Main Content:

- Knowing is not obeying
- Teaching others is not enough
- God requires practice, not pride

Design Intent:

- Warning emphasis
- Simple, bold text

Slide 5 — Hypocrisy Exposed

Main Content:

- You teach—do you obey?
- You condemn—do you practice?
- God’s name is dishonored

Scripture:

- Romans 2:21–24

Design Intent:

- Serious and corrective
- Clear, readable layout

Slide 6 — God’s Name Blasphemed

Main Content:

- Sin among God's people
- Causes the world to mock God
- Our lives preach louder than our words

Design Intent:

- Sobering tone
- Strong contrast

Slide 7 — Circumcision and the Law

Main Content:

- External signs had conditions
- Disobedience cancels the claim
- Ritual cannot replace faithfulness

Scripture:

- Romans 2:25–27

Design Intent:

- Teaching emphasis
- Clean background

Slide 8 — The Heart God Wants

Main Content:

- Not outward religion
- Inward devotion
- God looks at the heart

Scripture:

- Romans 2:28–29

Design Intent:

- Warm, instructive tone
- High readability

Slide 9 — The Law Shows the Need for Grace

Main Content:

- No one kept it perfectly
- Only Christ fulfilled it
- The Law exposes guilt

Scripture:

- Philippians 3:5–9

Design Intent:

- Reflective
- Clear and calm

Slide 10 — Two Dangers

Main Content:

- Legalism: trusting works
- Libertinism: abusing grace
- Both miss God's will

Design Intent:

- Warning tone
- Simple contrast layout

Slide 11 — Salvation in Christ

Main Content:

- Gospel saves
- Christ died and rose
- Obedient faith responds

Scripture:

- Romans 1:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

Design Intent:

- Hopeful

- Encouraging tone

Slide 12 — The Call to Respond

Main Content:

- Do not trust externals
- Give God your heart
- Obey Christ today

Design Intent:

- Invitation-focused
- Warm and serious