

SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016
THEME: TOWARD A NEW CREATION
UNIT TWO – A WORLD GONE WRONG

“THE DANGER OF MISGUIDED ASSUMPTIONS”



Sunday School Lesson No. V – July 3, 2016

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Romans 2:17-29 (NLT)

Required Reading: Romans 2:14-29

Motto Text: Romans 2:29 (NLT), *“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 the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.”*

Reliable Resources: All the Books and Chapters of the Bible (H. Lockyer); Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible (Dr. David Jeremiah); Expository Notes and Outlines on the Book of Romans (E. C. Gillentine); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); George Brooks Preaching Commentary; Analytical Bible Expositor

INTRODUCTION

Dr. George Brooks declares: “In Paul’s day, the Jews took great pride in whom they were as a people. The name Jew represented who they were religiously and racially. The name Jew meant that they were different from all other people in the world. Jews were proud of the fact that they were God’s chosen people. Because of how proud the Jews were of their heritage, they lost sight of the purpose for which God had chosen them. God had chosen the Jews to be a channel of blessing to the world (Gen. 12:3). But the Jews no longer fulfilled the purpose for which God had chosen them.

The Jews had begun to believe that God had chosen them because of their goodness and not because of His grace. They felt themselves to be superior to all other people. But being a descendant of Abraham did not automatically mean salvation. The only thing that gives salvation is acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.”

Now let us examine the error of the Jew of Paul’s day and his correct instruction to them. **“The Danger of Misguided Assumptions.”** One might say Paul warned the Gentiles in Chapter One and now begins to set the Jewish thinking in order beginning in Chapter 2.

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Misguided by Rules. Romans 2:17-24**
- **Misguided by Ritual. Romans 2:25-27**
- **Misguided by Race. Romans 2:28-29**

LESSON OUTLINE

“The Danger of Misguided Assumptions”

I. Misguided by Rules. Romans 2:17-24

A. Knowing truth. vv. 17-18

How often the person who is most familiar sometimes becomes most careless because they have some knowledge. So it appears that the Jews boasted that they knew the rules, because of Abraham, Moses and the early Fathers of the Hebrew Law. But knowing the rules and following the rules are quite opposed to each other. Luke 12:47, *“And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”* It's nearly impossible to be misguided when one walks in God's will. Note Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 5:17; I Thessalonians 4:3.

B. Discerning the truth honestly is a great responsibility. vv. 19-20

“To whom much is given, much is required.” The record of the Jew is full of error and misguided decisions.

C. Danger of hypocrisy. vv. 21-22

Paul challenges the well taught Jew that *“there is none righteous, no, not one.”* We all must walk carefully in this present world. Read Matthew 23 to note how hypocritical Jewish religious leaders could live. One must *“practice what he preaches.”*

D. Damage of those who dishonor God. vv. 23-24

They lead others to blaspheme the good name of God. Butler writes, *“Privilege is wonderful, but if it is misused and made a source of pride, it becomes a curse, not a blessing. Instead of using privilege to honor the Lord, the Jews used it to honor self and dishonor God.”*

II. Misguided by Ritual. Romans 2:25-27

The great Jewish ritual of circumcision is now put to the test as a ritual. Dr. J. Vernon Magee states, *“Circumcision was the badge of the Mosaic system...and that's all it was. There was no merit in the rite itself. That badge indicated that a man believed the Mosaic Law. Now for them to be transgressors of the Law brought circumcision into disrepute. That which should have been sacred, became profane.”*

This thought can be applied to our church sacraments. Water baptism is rightly a sacrament of the church, if it is the outward expression of a work of God in the heart. But it is a mockery if the person who is baptized gives no evidence of salvation.”

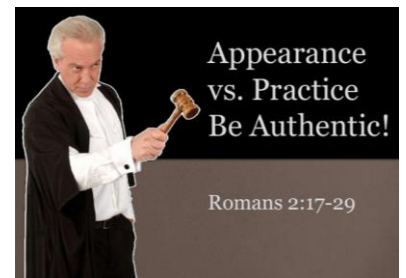
Circumcision was basically a reminder of the Abrahamic covenant of Genesis 17:11, and had no power to save its person. To the Jews, it became a misguided ritual.

III. Misguided by Race. Romans 2:28-29

Beloved, the bottom line of Paul's teaching is surmised in Colossians 2:11, *“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ”* and Jesus' teaching comes to life in John 8:39, 42, *“They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham... Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.”* *“Not by works of righteousness that we have done.”*

CLOSING

“The Gospel of Christ demands an inward change: *‘You must be born again.’* (John 3:7). It is not obedience to a religious system that will allow one to pass the test when Christ judges the secrets of men's hearts. It is the Gospel of Christ that is God's power unto salvation, both to Jew and Gentile. (Rom. 1:16).” If a person has never believed the Gospel and never received Christ, then he or she stands condemned. **Beware of the Dangers of Misguided Assumptions!** *All to Jesus, I surrender* should be our fervent plea!



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Looking Ahead: July 10, 2016 Romans 3:9-20



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