

- c. Romans 2:14-15 – On Judgment Day, God will use the human conscience as a _____ against moral sinners. Revelation 20:11-15
- 1) Romans 2:14 – *For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves...* Those who do not have the Ten Commandments will be judged based on a natural understanding of right and wrong, which all people everywhere _____.
 - 2) Romans 2:15a – *...in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts...* When people who do not have the written Law instinctively do what God’s Law says, they _____ they have the Law written on their hearts. They will not be excused based on ignorance.
 - 3) Romans 2:15b – *their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them...* A person’s conscience is his or her constant _____. Inside the mind, the conscience is always either accusing or congratulating the individual.
- d. Romans 2:16 – In the future, at the Great White Throne Judgment, using the conscience as a witness, Christ will reveal people’s _____. *...on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.* Moral sinners will be condemned because God is aware of all their thoughts and secret sins.

C. Romans 2:17-29 – God’s judgment of the religious sinner

1. Romans 2:17-20 – Religious sinners are not justified before God based on their zeal or religious sincerity. Paul was qualified to give this example, since he had been a distinguished religious _____ in the Jewish religion. Philippians 3:4-9
 - a. Romans 2:17a – *But if you bear the name Jew...* To bring this truth to life, Paul fittingly chose to spotlight Judaism, his own ethnic _____. He focused on those who *bear the name Jew*.
 - b. Romans 2:17b – *...and rely upon the Law...* Religious sinners in Judaism relied on the Old Testament _____ to gain righteousness.
 - c. Romans 2:17c – *...and boast in God...* They took _____ in having the true God as their national or ethnic deity.
 - d. Romans 2:18a – *...and know His will...* These religious sinners claimed to know how to _____ God. They prided themselves in knowing what one should and should not do to honor God.
 - e. Romans 2:18b – *...and approve the things that are essential...* Religious people always claim to _____ what a person should do in order to be acceptable to God.
 - f. Romans 2:18c – *...being instructed out of the Law...* In this case, these religious sinners were self-confident because they had the very Law of God, the most accurate _____ of all.

- g. Romans 2:19-20 – Religious sinners are convinced they are experts concerning spiritual things. Reworded, Paul said of these Jewish religious practitioners, “You ...*are confident that you yourself are a* _____ from God to humanity.”
- 1) Romans 2:19a – ...*guide to the blind*... Religious people see themselves unrivaled in _____ poor undiscerning souls to God.
 - 2) Romans 2:19b – ...*a light to those who are in darkness*... Since they are sure they _____ the truth, they want to illuminate the way for the uninformed.
 - 3) Romans 2:20a – ...*a corrector of the foolish*... Religious people feel _____ to determine what is right and what is wrong for the ignorant masses.
 - 4) Romans 2:20b – ...*a teacher of the immature*... Supposing they are the _____ and privileged elite, religious people make training spiritual babies their priority.
 - 5) Romans 2:20c – ...*having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth*... Armed with a wealth of scriptural truth, these religious _____ become self-deluded and arrogant.

2. Romans 2:21-23 – What is God’s evaluation of religious sinners?

- a. Romans 2:21a – *You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?* Religious sinners presume to be spiritually responsible for the eternal destiny of others (the blind, darkened, foolish and immature) while ignoring their own spiritual inadequacies and _____ condition.
 - 1) God asks the religious sinner if he practices what he _____.
 - 2) Paul challenged religious sinners to take an up-close and personal look at themselves and to apply God’s laws to themselves _____. 1 Timothy 1:8-11
- b. Romans 2:21b – *You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?* Paul encouraged religious sinners, who insisted it was wrong to steal, to take an honest _____ at themselves. Had they ever been guilty of theft?
- c. Romans 2:22a – *You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?* Virtually all religious people say it is _____ to commit adultery, so Paul put them on the spot by asking them directly if they had ever committed adultery.
 - 1) In Matthew 5:28 Jesus confronted this same issue when He said, “*But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with _____ for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*”
 - 2) Have religious sinners lived their entire lives without ever looking lustfully at another person? Paul wanted to _____ to religious sinners that they were as guilty as those they were trying to correct and convert.

- d. Romans 2:22b – *You who abhor idols, do you _____ temples?* Paul pointed out the hypocrisy of these religious sinners.
- 1) It was a common practice, dating all the way back to the days of the Greek Empire, to _____ temples, since many temples housed great treasures. Many religious Jews reasoned that since foreign gods were not actually real, it was totally acceptable to plunder their temples.
 - 2) They were proud because they did not worship idols, but at the same time, they were stealing. They kept one law and _____ another.
- e. Romans 2:23 – *You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?* These religious sinners brought dishonor to God by their hypocrisy. On the one hand, they claimed it was wrong to worship _____, but on the other hand they justified their practice of stealing.
- 1) When religious people _____ about their knowledge of the Bible but fail to live according to what the Bible says, they dishonor God.
 - 2) The actions of religious sinners _____ their words, causing people to reject the God of the Bible.
3. Romans 2:24-29 – Paul’s rebuke of religious sinners
- a. Romans 2:24 – *For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.* The hypocrisy of Jewish religious sinners made the name of God into an everyday _____ word.
- b. Romans 2:25-27 – Paul showed how the hypocrisy of Jewish religious devotees invalidated the _____ of circumcision. Religious sinners frequently destroy the true significance of legitimate rituals.
- 1) Romans 2:25a – *For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law...* Circumcision was a ritual that identified a male as a Jew, one of God’s _____ people. But Paul said that circumcision was only valuable if the person fulfilled the Law entirely.
 - 2) Romans 2:25b – *...but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.* If a circumcised male did not care about God or follow His Law, his circumcision meant _____. He might as well not be circumcised. Romans 9:6-8, Jeremiah 9:24-25
 - 3) Romans 2:26 – The reverse was also true. *So, if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?* If an uncircumcised Gentile obeyed God’s Law, people would naturally _____ him as circumcised.
 - 4) Romans 2:27 – *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?* If a Gentile kept the Law, he would be a strong _____ against the circumcised Jew who did not keep it.

- c. Romans 2:28-29 – An external ritual like circumcision, baptism or communion might make you a Jew, a Protestant or a Catholic (etc.) in name, but it will not transform you on the _____ . 1 Samuel 16:7
- 1) Romans 2:28 – In fact, Paul said, *“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.”* An external ritual, like circumcision, does not make an internal or spiritual _____ .
 - 2) Romans 2:29a – *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... Only the circumcision of the heart, [done] by the Spirit at salvation has transforming _____ .* Deuteronomy 30:6, Jeremiah 4:4, Philippians 3:3, Titus 3:5
 - 3) Romans 2:29b – *...and his praise is not from men, but from God.* Only the born-again person who has received spiritual surgery in his heart by means of the Holy Spirit brings _____ to God. Ephesians 1:13-14

D. Romans 3:1-8 – Paul anticipated questions concerning religious sinners

1. Romans 3:1-2 – Paul anticipated the first question, which concerned Israel. Since Paul used his own people as a negative example of religious sinners, someone might ask, “What good is there then in being a _____ ?”
 - a. Romans 3:1 – *Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Was there any benefit in being an Israelite? Paul’s answer was _____ .*
 - b. Romans 3:2 – *Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.* The chief advantage the Jew had, as opposed to the Gentile, was the possession of Old Testament Scriptures. The Old Testament graciously prepared Israel for trusting in Jesus _____. John 5:39, 46; Galatians 3:24
2. Romans 3:3-4 – A second question concerning religious sinners that Paul anticipated was this: “If religious sinners are hypocrites, does that make God a _____ ?” When religious people are hypocrites, does that invalidate God?
 - a. Romans 3:3 – *What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? If a religious person possesses biblical truth but does not _____ it or handle it correctly, does that somehow eliminate God’s faithfulness? Of course, the answer is no.*
 - b. Romans 3:4a – *“May it never be!”* When religious sinners show they do not believe the God they preach about, it causes _____ concerning God’s reliability, but Paul emphasized that God is never the one to blame.
 - c. Romans 3:4b – *Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar.* Despite the hypocrisy of religious sinners, God always tells the _____. God is always right and good even when those who claim to follow Him don’t walk according to His truth. Psalm 116:11, Romans 2:21-24