

Date: November 29 & 30, 2008  
Text: Romans 2:25-29  
Topic: Sin. Ceremonies.  
Study: Romans  
Week: 18  
Series: 6 of 6  
CD #: 08-36

part 6

# Judgment Day

## *No Hiding Behind Religious Trappings*



**1. Realize** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.25-27)

**2. Look for** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.28-29)

**3. Understand** \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans)

### *Romans 2:25-29*

<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> 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 written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

<sup>28</sup> A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.

<sup>29</sup> No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God. (NIV)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Jeremiah 4:4** and **Deuteronomy 30:6**. The Old Testament Jews often relied on the external sign of circumcision instead of looking for the internal reality of a heart transformed by God's grace. What are some of the externals that people wrongly rely on today, instead of acquiring by faith a heart made new by God's grace?
2. Read **Romans 2:16**. Why is the heart a much more difficult arena to assess than the external forms of religion?
3. Describe the difference between the inward realities of real conversion to Christ and the external conformity to a religious community's ceremonial standards. How would one know if one is simply "going through the motions" or expressing internal realities with external actions?
4. When Paul speaks of "praise from God" in v.29 he is logically contrasting the "praise from men" that is so easily and quickly bestowed on those who participate in the external activities associated with God's people. How can we be careful to rightly encourage, yet not to give misleading affirmation when people today "walk an aisle," "pray a prayer" or get baptized?
5. How would you respond to someone who says that saving grace is evidenced internally in a person's heart then he is not going to engage in any external Christian activities because, after all, those activities cannot "save" you.

## *Read Through the Bible in a Year*

Here's this  
week's schedule:

November 30<sup>th</sup>

*Hos. 5-6 & 2Pt. 2*

December 1<sup>st</sup>

*Hos. 7-8 & 2Pt. 3*

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Hos. 9-10 & 1Jn. 1*

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Hos. 11-12 & 1Jn. 2*

December 4<sup>th</sup>

*Hos. 13-14 & 1Jn. 3*

December 5<sup>th</sup>

*Joel & 1Jn. 4*

December 6<sup>th</sup>

*Amos 1-2 & 1Jn. 5*

December 7<sup>th</sup>

*Amos 3-4 & 2Jn.*

Here is a list of other CDs available from past sermons which may assist you in your further study of today's message.

CD # 0835 – **Learning to Hate Hypocrisy**

CD # 0657 – **Outward Signs & Inward Realities: Making Sure We're Not Fooled**

CD # 0656 – **Tempted to Trust in Something Other than Christ**

CD # 0815 – **How to Get Eternal Life: The Only Right Response**

Here are some resources that will assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in this week's sermon.  
(To see other recommendations by Pastor Mike related to this and other topics go to [www.CompassBooks.org](http://www.CompassBooks.org).)

Blaising, Craig A. **Dispensationalism, Israel and the Church**. Zondervan, 1992.

Carson, Alexander. **Baptism: Its Mode and Subjects**. Reprint. Kregel, 1981.

Conant, Thomas Jefferson. **The Meaning and Use of BAPTIZEIN**. Reprint. Kregel, 1977.

Fruchtenbaum, Arnold. **Israelology: The Missing Link in Systematic Theology**. Ariel Ministries, 1994.

Jewett, Paul K. **Infant Baptism & the Covenant of Grace: An Appraisal of the Argument**. Wipf & Stock, 1978.

MacArthur, John. **Faith Works: The Gospel According to the Apostles**. Zondervan, 1994.

McClain, Alva. **The Greatness of the Kingdom: An Inductive Study of the Kingdom of God**. BMH Books, 1974.

Peters, George N. H. **The Theocratic Kingdom (3 volumes)**. Reprint. Kregel Publications, 1988.

Saucy, Robert L. **The Church in God's Program**. Moody Press, 1972.

Showers, Renald. **There Really Is a Difference: A Comparison of Covenant & Dispensational Theology**. FOGM, 1990.

Sproul, R. C. **Faith Alone: The Evangelical Doctrine of Justification**. Baker Books, 1995.

Walton, John H. **Covenant: God's Purpose, God's Plan**. Zondervan, 1994.

Watson, T. E. **Should Babies Be Baptized?** Grace Publications, 1995.