

# **A CASE STUDY IN RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY**

## **ROMANS 2:17-29**

### **I. THE SELF ASSESSMENT OF THE RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITE (2:17-18)**

- A. He Embraces Certain Things That Are Good (2:17-18)
  - 1. His Name
  - 2. The Law
  - 3. The One True God
  - 4. The Will Of God
  - 5. Things That Are Excellent As Determined By Scripture
- B. He Responds To The Things He Embraces (2:17-18)

### **II. THE SENSE OF SUPERIORITY OF THE RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITE (2:19-20)**

- A. He Makes A Keen Diagnosis Of All Who Are Not On His Level
  - 1. Everyone Else Is Blind (2:19)
  - 2. Everyone Else Is Foolish (2:20)
  - 3. Everyone Else Is Immature (2:20)
- B. He Has The Answer To All These Maladies

### **III. THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITE (2:21-24)**

- A. He Rarely Makes Personal Application (2:21-22)
  - 1. Paul's General Question (2:21a)
  - 2. Paul's Specific Application Of The Commandments (2:21b-22)
    - a. The Eighth (2:21b)
    - b. The Seventh (2:22a)
    - c. The First Four (2:22b)
- B. He Dishonors God By Causing Men To Speak Ill Of God (2:23-24)

### **IV. THE EMPHASIS ON RITUAL OF THE RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITE (2:25-29)**

- A. The Hollowness Of Symbol Without Substance (2:25)
- B. The Irony Of Substance Without Symbol (2:26-27)
- C. The Beauty Of Substance With Symbol (2:28-29)

# THE ANCIENT JEWISH MINDSET COMPARED WITH ROMANS 2:17-18

*For these are the people whom you have elected,  
and this is the nation of which you found no equal.  
But I shall speak to you now,  
and I shall say as my heart thinks.  
In you we have put our trust, because behold, your law is with us,  
and we know that we do not fall as long as we keep your statutes.  
We shall always be blest; at least we did not mingle with the nations.  
For we are all a people of the name;  
we who received one law from the One.  
And that law that is among us will help us,  
and that excellent wisdom which is in us will support us.*

--From the Pseudepigraphal Book: 2 Baruch 48:20-24

## THE SENSE OF SUPERIORITY OF THE JEW

**The Jew Was Sure He Was Exempt From Judgment On Three Grounds:**

1. He Was Privileged To Receive The Law.
2. He Was Circumcised
3. He Was A Son Of Abraham (John 8:33).

**This Text Attacks All Three Of These Things In Order:**

1. The Law Cannot Save (2:17-24).
2. Circumcision Cannot Save (2:25-27).
3. Birth (Blood line) Cannot Save (2:28-29).