

# Three Great Faults of the Ancient Jews

Rom. 2:17-29

## Introduction:

1. Jews and Gentiles guilty of sin and in need of gospel. (Rom. 3:9,10,23; 1:16).
  - a. Chapter one details Gentiles sins.
  - b. Chapter two details Jews sins.
2. Jews had three outstanding faults among their many sins.

## Discussion:

### **I. Arrogance. (vs. 17-20; cf. 3:27).**

- A. Jews allowed God's special blessings to feed their pride.
- B. Christians can allow God's special blessings to feed pride. (1 Cor. 4:7).
  1. Not ashamed of being Christians (1 Pet.4:16); but no reason to boast. (Col. 1:12-17).
  2. Not ashamed to preach gospel (Rom. 1:15,16); but no reason to boast. (1 Cor. 9:16).
  3. Not ashamed to give answer, but no reason for arrogance. (1 Pet. 3:15).
  4. Not ashamed to obey anything, but no reason to boast. (Lk. 17:10).
- C. Christians can become "arrogantly humble". (Col. 2:23; Matt. 6:16-18).

### **II. Hypocrisy. (vs. 21-24; cf. Matt. 23:3).**

- A. Jew's hypocrisy caused Gentiles to blaspheme the name of God.
  1. Gentiles associated name of God with conduct of His people - the Jews.
  2. Gentiles could see Jews did not honor law they boasted of.
- B. Christian's hypocrisy causes world to speak against name of Christ.
  1. No person can excuse himself by hiding behind the hypocritical in church.
  2. No person can excuse himself for being hypocritical.
    - a. Must be light of the world, the salt of the earth. (Matt. 5:13-16)
    - b. Must make actions consistent with words. (cf. McGarvey on Instrumental music).
    - c. Must make our daily practice consistent with our doctrinal position.

### **III. Formalism. (vs. 20, 25-29)**

- A. Jews emphasized outward form to neglect of inward purity. (cf. Matt 23:23).
- B. Christians can become formalistic - reduced religion to pomp and ceremony.
  1. By wearing name of Christ without living life it represents.
  2. By priding self in being church of Christ without really being of Christ.
  3. By engaging in right acts of worship, without heart being in them.
  4. By insisting on scriptural form of work, organization, but very little personal conscientious involvement in them.

## Conclusion:

- A. Let each one become a Christian, one of God's chosen, to be saved from sins.
- B. Let each serve as Christians:
  1. With humble gratitude rather than arrogance.
  2. With daily actions consistent with doctrinal positions.
  3. With depth of conviction and love rather than formalism.