

Romans 2:12-29

Pray that God would reveal any hypocrisy, and spot of your life and heart that is not in step with the gospel, and that we would have courage to be honest about it, and walk in the light.

Read Romans 1:12-29

Look Closer... Paul moves with tact throughout this part of the chapter, making a very precise argument. In vv. 12-16 Paul shows that there is no partiality between Jews and Gentiles, for there is both disobedience and obedience in those under the law, and not under the law (the Law meaning the Jewish "torah"). But then, in v. 17, he turns his attention to the Jews. They were supposed to be God's representatives! When God chose Abram, in Genesis 12, to be the father of a new nation that would bless all the other nations, He was forming the DNA of the people of God. In Exodus 19 he calls Israel a "kingdom of priests" and a "holy nation". Paul asks the Jews in Rome, "you think you're priests?" "Do you think you are holy?" Well you commit the same sins as those you're supposed to be leading! How could the nations be blessed in you!?

Then, in vv. 25-29, he shows them that being God's people is no longer about having Jewish blood, no longer about outward circumcision (which used to be an identity marker, proving someone to be chosen by God); but God's people are now those who are indwelt with His Spirit!

Think about it... Outward circumcision used to be an identity marker for being a follower of God. Yet the Bible is clear that many who were Jews outwardly did not have an inward faith. Besides, this way of indicating God's family is exclusive to men alone! What Paul is writing here is amazing! The sign of being in God's family is no longer a mark on the outside of a man's body, but that all God's daughters and sons are bound to the holy spirit of God!

Pray about it... God is making you whole, not so that you can be saved by your good works, but as a result of Him coming near to you, and binding Himself to you. Pray that God would draw you nearer to His heart, and deeper into His sovereign plan to redeem the whole world, just as He's redeeming you.