

Can you keep the law? – Romans 2:17-29
James Muldoon - Carey Baptist Church – 8 March 2009

Introduction

- What are Christians often accused of?

i Law

- Paul is continuing his diatribe, his argument against an imaginary opponent. Summarise his opponent's position in v17-24.
- What four privileges did the Jews have (according to v17-18)?
 - (i)
 - (ii)
 - (iii)
 - (iv)
- What responsibility did these privileges give to the Jews (according to v19-20)?
- What is the point of Paul's questions in v21-23?
- What is Paul's verdict in v24?
- What is Paul condemning in these verses?
- What are four ways in which Christians can be guilty of hypocrisy?
 - (i)
 - (ii)
 - (iii)
 - (iv)

ii Circumcision

- Summarise Paul's opponent's position in v25-29.
- Did Jewish people really take that view?
- What did circumcision stand for?

- In v25-26, Paul describes two men. One is circumcised but he does not keep the law; the other is uncircumcised but he does keep the law (and we are meant to understand that his law-keeping flows from his love for the gospel). What does Paul say about the circumcised man?
- And what does Paul say about the uncircumcised man?
- What does v27 add?
- Why would v28-29 have been shocking to Paul's original readers?
- What is a Jew not (v28)?
- What is a Jew (v29)?
- How does circumcision of the heart happen?
- In one sentence, summarise what Paul is saying in v25-29.
- What are two ways in which people in churches can be more concerned about the outward than the inward today?
 - (i)
 - (ii)
- How can you help yourself to internalise and to obey God's word when you hear it preached, as James 1:22-25 says you must?