

THE WRONG SECURITY

ROMANS 2:17-29

IT IS THE NATURAL IMPULSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION TO WANT SECURITY, AND WE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS AND EXPENSE TO SECURE IT—OR SO WE THINK.

- A measure of **ECONOMIC SECURITY** can be had from such things as having a long-term work contract.
- A measure of **HOME SECURITY** can be achieved by burglar alarms.
- A measure of **NATIONAL SECURITY** can be had from a well-trained, well-equipped military force.

What about your **ETERNAL SECURITY**?

PRE-PROGRAMMED KNOWLEDGE

Even the most pagan/heathen reprobates know something of God's *"invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature."*

ROM. 1:18-21

- Nearly all people know to some degree that those who do not live up to God's standards of righteousness are *"worthy of death."* (ROM. 1:32) Therefore, instinctively, people hope that in some way or another they can escape that judgment.
- Most people build up a false sense of eternal security by trying to convince themselves they are basically good, that a just God would not condemn even semi-good people to hell.

THE BIG LIE!

Many believe in some form of Universalism, that God is too loving to send anyone to hell and will ultimately save everyone, even the most wicked of sinners.

- Still, others insist that there is no God and that the idea of a final divine judgment is therefore ludicrous.
- These beliefs are so common that those who put their security in them can find reassurance in the large numbers of other people doing the same.
- They even design religions to affirm these views—**ISLAM** and **MORMONISM** are two examples of this fact.

1. THEIR FALSE SECURITY IN RELIGIOUS HERITAGE v. 17a

The chosen people of God took great pride in the name **Jew** or Hebrew because of the language they spoke.

- The name marked them off as the unique and specially-favored people of God.
- They believed they were specially blessed not because of God's grace, but because of their own goodness.
- **In a similar way**, many people have considered themselves safe from God's judgment simply because they have been born into a Christian family, or have been baptized, or belong to a certain church. **NOT SECURE.**

2. THEIR FALSE SECURITY IN RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE v. 17b-24

- The second false religious security Paul mentions is knowledge of **GOD'S LAW**, what we now refer to as The Pentateuch—the first five books of the O.T.
- The Jews boasted in the Law.
- They could teach it and never failed to keep a festival.
- Today, many say, *“I have a Bible; I know what the Bible says”* is their cry. They can quote **JOHN 3:16**. **OFTEN, THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS CAN QUOTE IT, BUT FAIL TO TAKE IT TO HEART AND LIVE IT. NOT SECURE.**

3. THEIR FALSE SECURITY IN CEREMONY AND TRADITIONS v. 25-29

- Proceeding to a third type of false security, “*circumcision*,” in which many Jews placed their trust, Paul clarifies the true significance of that rite.
- Long before Paul’s day, the rite of circumcision had become so shrouded in superstition that ancient rabbis formulated sayings such as: “*No circumcised Jewish man will see hell.*”
- Yet, disobedience to God put the circumcised Israelites in the same category of judgment as the uncircumcised Gentiles. **NOT SECURE.**

In **VERSES 28-29**, Paul summarizes his demolition of this false trust in anything religious.

- **FIRST**, he reiterates that Jewish heritage, wonderful as it was, had absolutely no spiritual benefit if it stood alone.
- **SECOND**, Paul re-emphasizes the truth that all religious ceremony is of no value in itself.
- **THIRD**, Paul restates the truth that knowledge of God's law has no power to save a person.

As believers, our security comes directly **from God**, the Father, by a relationship with Jesus Christ, His Son, by grace through faith. Not **THE WRONG SECURITY OF:**

- 1. Religious Heritage** **v. 17a**
- 2. Religious Knowledge** **v. 17b-24**
- 3. Religious Ceremony** **v. 25-29**

**Trust in Jesus alone, by grace through faith,
for your eternal security.**