

VIII. The False Security of Being a Jew

A. The False Security of Heritage

1. Things in which people have a false sense of security
2. The hope of eternal security
 - a. Unbelievers - that death is
 - i. the end of existence
 - ii. Impersonal unconscious nothingness
 - iii. Recycle to another chance
 - b. The Religious -
 - i. What all have
 - general revelation - 1:18-21; - the witness of the hear and conscience - 2:14-15; - some knowledge of God's righteous judgment on those that don't live up to His standard - 1:32
 - some hope that they can escape judgment - Heb 9:27
 - ii. Religious methodology for false security
3. Indeed you are called a Jew,
 - a. they took pride in the name - Jew
 - i. had been called Hebrews - possibly after Eber - Ge 10:24-25
 - ii. then Israelites
 - iii. Jew derived from Judah
 - b. the name represents both their racial and religious heritage and was the basis of great pride in that they were different from all others
 - c. The minor prophets repeatedly warned against the arrogance of thinking that they were fine b/c they were God's chosen people - Mal 3:11-12
 - d. Jesus speaking Jews that believed in Him, offended them greatly - Jo 8:33
 - i. if they abide in His word then they would be His disciples - Jo 8:31-32 -
 - ii. Anyone who sins is a slave to sin - Jo 8:34
 - iii. A seed of Abraham wouldn't be trying to kill me - Jo 8:40
 - iv. You are of your father the devil - vs 44
 - v. other offenders - John the Baptizer - Mt 3:7-9

B. The False Security of Knowledge - vs 17b-24

1. Knowledge of the Law
 - a. refers to the OT, the Pentateuch, the writings, and the prophets
 - b. encompasses all of His revelation, about covenants, blessings, cursings, warnings, promises, rites, and ceremonies
2. That which they learned about the law - vs 17b-18
 - a. their relationship with the law
 - i. and rest on the law, and make your boast in God,
 - ii. Supposedly relying upon the doing of the law to find approval from God
 - iii. Really, boasting in themselves thinking they were keeping the law
 - b. and know His will, (w/o obedience) - Jas 2:14-26
 - i. and approve the things that are excellent,
 - ii. *dokimazo* - to test in order to prove the value of something to approve.
 - iii. Not only to determine right and wrong, but to discern the most important part of God's law
 - c. being instructed out of the law,
 - i. *katecheo* - to sound down into the ears, to indoctrinate ("catechize") to apprise of:--inform, instruct, teach.
 - ii. Any oral instruction, but included repetition - Deut 6:4-9

3. That which they Taught about the law - vs 19-20 - 4 proofs of spiritual superiority
 - a. are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, - Mt 23:24-28
 - i. in spiritual and moral matters, considered themselves superior mentors
 - ii. Blind - to unlearned Jewish brethren and spiritually blind pagan Gentiles
 - b. a light to those who are in darkness,
 - i. God's intended role for Israel - Is 42:6
 - ii. Jesus called the disciple to be "the light of the world" -Mt 5:14-16
 - c. an instructor of the foolish, - primary focus - Gentile
 - d. a teacher of babes,
 - i. teaching children is important
 - ii. More likely Gentile proselytes - learning about God's law, ridding themselves of pagan practices
 - e. having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.
 - i. *morphosis* - formation, *appearance* (semblance or formula):--form.
 - ii. b/c Paul speaks against religious superficiality - 2 Ti 3:5
 - iii. the Jews had revelation, but it was encrusted w/ rabbinical traditions
4. That which they Did in relation to the law - vs 21-22
 - a. You who teach another, do you not teach yourself? - Mt 23:3
 - b. You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? - Is 56:11; Ez 22:12; Am 8:5; Mt 21:13; Jo 2:16; Mt 23:14
 - c. You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? - Mt 5:28,32; 19:9
 - d. You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
 - i. *bdelusso* - to be disgusted, detest (esp of idolatry):--abhor, abominable.
 - ii. They may have learned the lesson against idolatry, but - Mal 3:8
5. What they Caused by breaking the law - vs 23-24
 - a. You who make your boast in the law,
 - i. do you dishonor God through breaking the law?
 - ii. . For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written. - Is 52:5
 - b. every sin dishonors God - Ps 51:4, but to blaspheme God's name would be worse of all - 2Sa 12:14

C. The False Security of Ceremony - vs 25-29

1. For circumcision
 - a. instituted by God as a mark of the covenant - Ge 17:10-12
 - b. is indeed profitable if you keep the law;
2. but if you are a breaker of the law,
 - a. your circumcision has become uncircumcision.
 - b. obviously not a participant in the covenant
 - c. circumcision actually makes them more responsible
3. if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law,
 - a. will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?
 - b. will he not judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? - Mt 12:41-42
4. True Jewishness
 - a. For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; - Mt 3:9; Jo 8:39; Ro 9:6-7;
 - b. but he is a Jew who is one inwardly;
 - i. and circumcision is that of the heart, - Php 3:3; Col 2:11; Ga 6:15
 - ii. in the Spirit, not in the letter;
 - iii. whose praise is not from men but from God. - 2Co 10:18; 1Th 2:4