

TESTING YOUR “FIRMWARE” ... OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ... (Romans 2:17–29)

1) Diagnostic Questions: Testing the connection between profession and action, 2:17-22.

■ PROFESSION:

- Rely on the law and boast in God.
- Know his will and approve what is excellent.
- Instructed from the law.

■ CONFIDENCE:

- A guide to the blind.
- A light to those who are in darkness.
- An instructor of the foolish.
- A teacher of children.
- Having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth.

■ ACTION DIAGNOSTICS:

- Do you NOT teach yourself?
- Do you steal?
- Do you commit adultery?
- Do you rob temples?

“Who am I?”

“Field Test”: a test carried out in the environment in which a product or device is to be used.

2) Field test results: Evaluating and surveying the results of our religion “in the wild,” 2:23-24.

- They boast in the law - the written code (v.27).
- But they suffer a disconnect between God’s written code and their operating system of belief.
- So in effect they break “the code” as they **assimilate** it into their system of belief.

3) Authentication Process: Determining the nature of a true Jew, 2:25-29.

- The value of circumcision is determined by obedience.
- An outward Jew has the pure “written code” but corrupts it with his religious code.
- Being an “inward Jew” is a matter of the heart, the Spirit and the “praise audience.”

“Assimilate”: to make similar; to alter by assimilation; to absorb into the culture or mores of a population or group; to bring into conformity with the customs, attitudes, etc., of a group, nation, or the like; adapt or adjust; to cause to resemble.

And **if you are sure** that you yourself are ...
a light to those who are in darkness

(Romans 2:19 ESV).

(Isaiah 58:1-10 NCV)

- 1 **The LORD says,** “Shout out loud. Don’t hold back. Shout out loud like a trumpet. **Tell my people what they have done against their God;** tell the family of Jacob about their sins. 2 They still come every day looking for me and want to learn my ways. **They act just like a nation that does what is right, that obeys the commands of its God.** They ask me to judge them fairly. They want God to be near them.
- 3 **They say,** “To honor you we had special days when we fasted, but you didn’t see. We humbled ourselves to honor you, but you didn’t notice.” **But the LORD says,** “You do what pleases yourselves on these special days ...”
- 6 **“I will tell you the kind of fast I want: Free the people you have put in prison unfairly and undo their chains. Free those to whom you are unfair and stop their hard labor. 7 Share your food with the hungry** and bring poor, homeless people into your own homes. When you see someone who has no clothes, give him yours, and don’t refuse to help your own relatives.
- 8 **Then your light will shine like the dawn,** and your wounds will quickly heal. **Your God will walk before you, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind. 9 Then you will call out, and the LORD will answer. You will cry out, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’** “If you stop making trouble for others, if you stop using cruel words and pointing your finger at others, 10 if you feed those who are hungry and take care of the needs of those who are troubled, **then your light will shine in the darkness, and you will be bright like sunshine at noon.**”

The name of God was **blasphemed** because they claimed to be **all** of this and were **none** of it!

- (Romans 2:24 ESV) For, as it is written, “**The name of God is blasphemed** among the Gentiles because of you.”