— Romans 2.28-29; Luke 15.11-32 —
Romans Series 17
**Understanding the Jews' Objection to the Gospel
and Yet Their Great Need for It**

Romans 2.28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Luke 15.11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. 25 Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' 28 But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

* In the latter part of Romans 2, Paul is dealing with …

* Today, we look at Rom 2 through the lens of …

* In the parable, whom do these characters represent?

   – The father

   – The younger brother

   – The older brother

* In the story, what are the two sources of conflict?

   1)

   2)

* What were the Jews saying in the 1st century?

* What is the mystery in this parable, and what is the answer to the mystery?

* What is the father's goal, and how does it relate to God and Israel in the OT?

* How did both brothers miss the boat as sons?

* What was Israel's besetting sin in the OT, and how does that tie in to Rom 2.28-29?

3)

* What is the hanging question at the end of the parable, and what is the answer to that question?

* What are four practical pointers to remember?

1)

* The application is, don't be …, and yet we don't have any choice but to be …

2)

3)

* What is one of the strongest passages helping us to not be like the older brother?

4)

* Where does the older brother attitude start?

* What are disappointments and pressures we face today?

* True son ship always involves what three things?

1)

2)