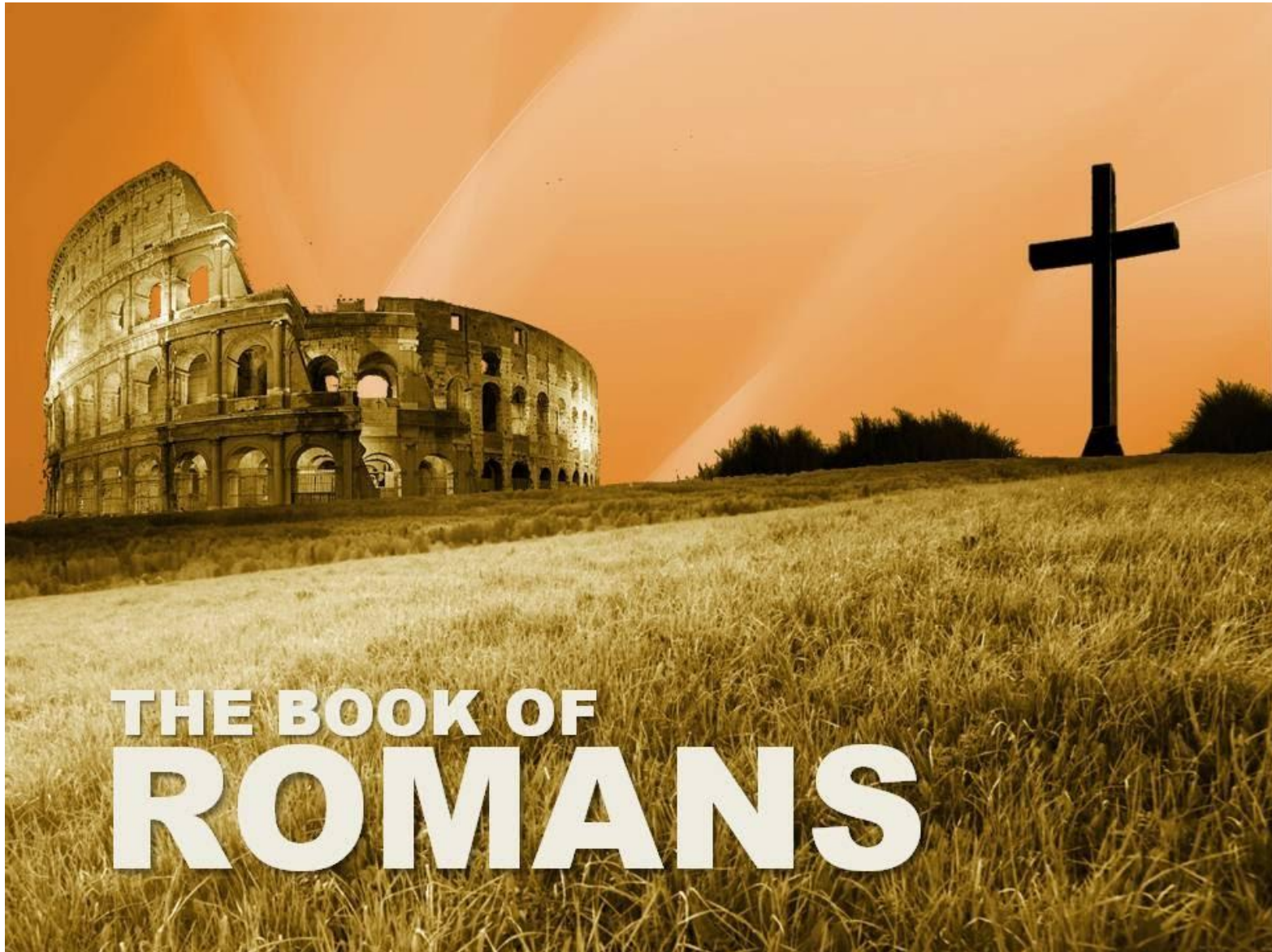


Rom 2:17-24 The Jewish World Condemned



Outline



Condemnation* of Mankind	1:18 -3:20
The Gentile World Condemned	1:18 - 2:16
Immoral Man Condemnation	1:18-32
Moral Man Condemnation	2:1-16
The Jewish World Condemned	2:17- 3:8
The Jew - His Possession	2:17-18
The Jew - His Confidence	2:19-20
The Jew - His Dishonoring of God	2:21-24
The Jew - His Circumcision	2:25-29
The Jew - His Condemnation	3:1-8
The Whole World Condemned	3:9 - 20

* **condemn** - to give judgment against, pass sentence upon

The Gentiles are a law to themselves**



- God here [verses 14-16] declares that there is a righteous “work”* Divinely written and maintained in all men’s hearts, from which they cannot escape;
- Because their consciences “agree” with it (with this inner working of the Law).
- This “work”* is evidently what lies at the root of the human conscience.
- The Law (of Moses) has never been written in the hearts of the Gentiles;
- But a Divine “work”* is present in all men.
- The moral and spiritual constitution of man came 2,500 years before Moses’ Law [at creation].
- The latter [Moses’ Law] could only be the written expression of what existed before as a “work”* or witness, in man’s being, to which his conscience attested. ** Newell

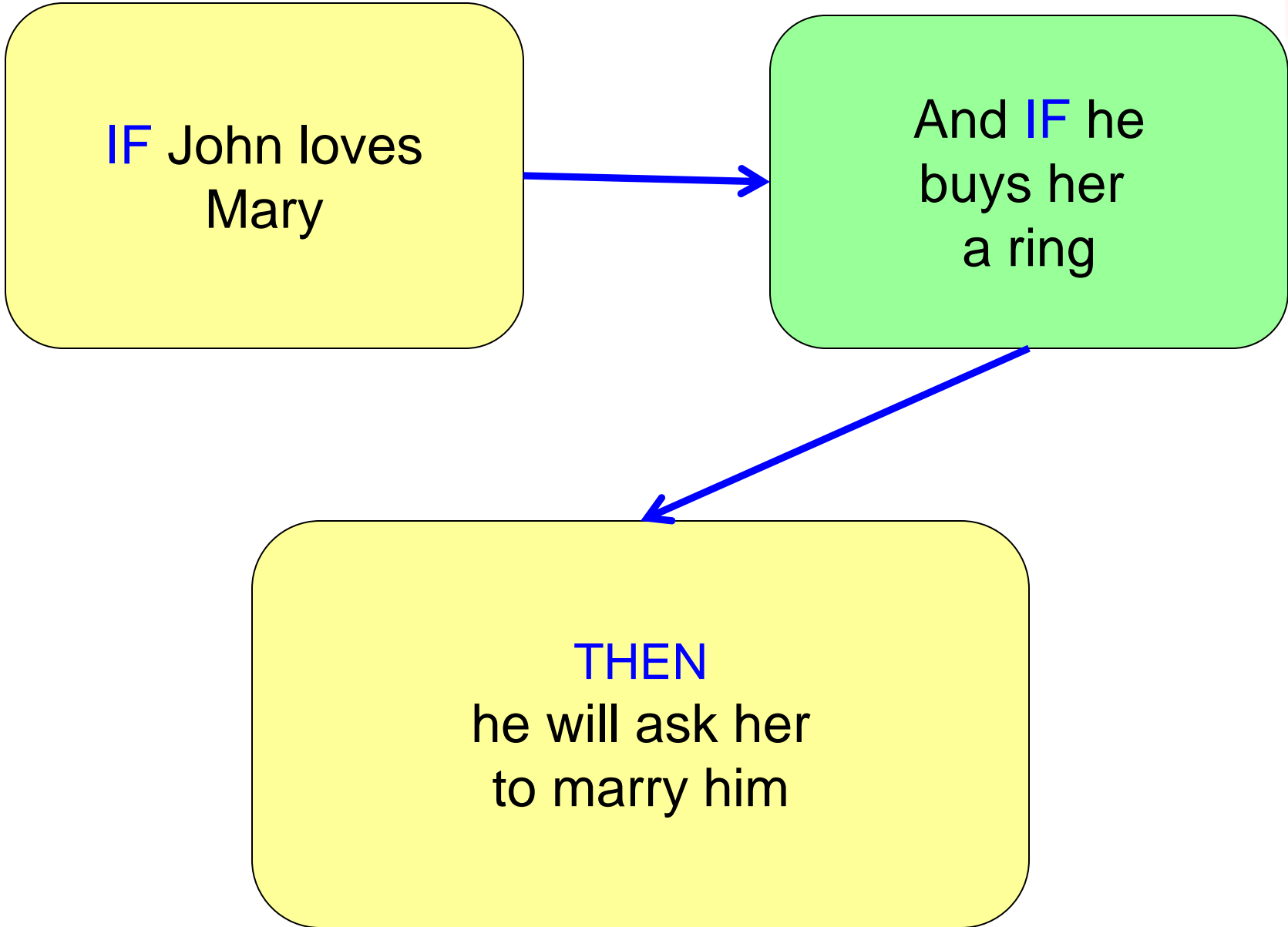
* work of the Law

Today's Verses

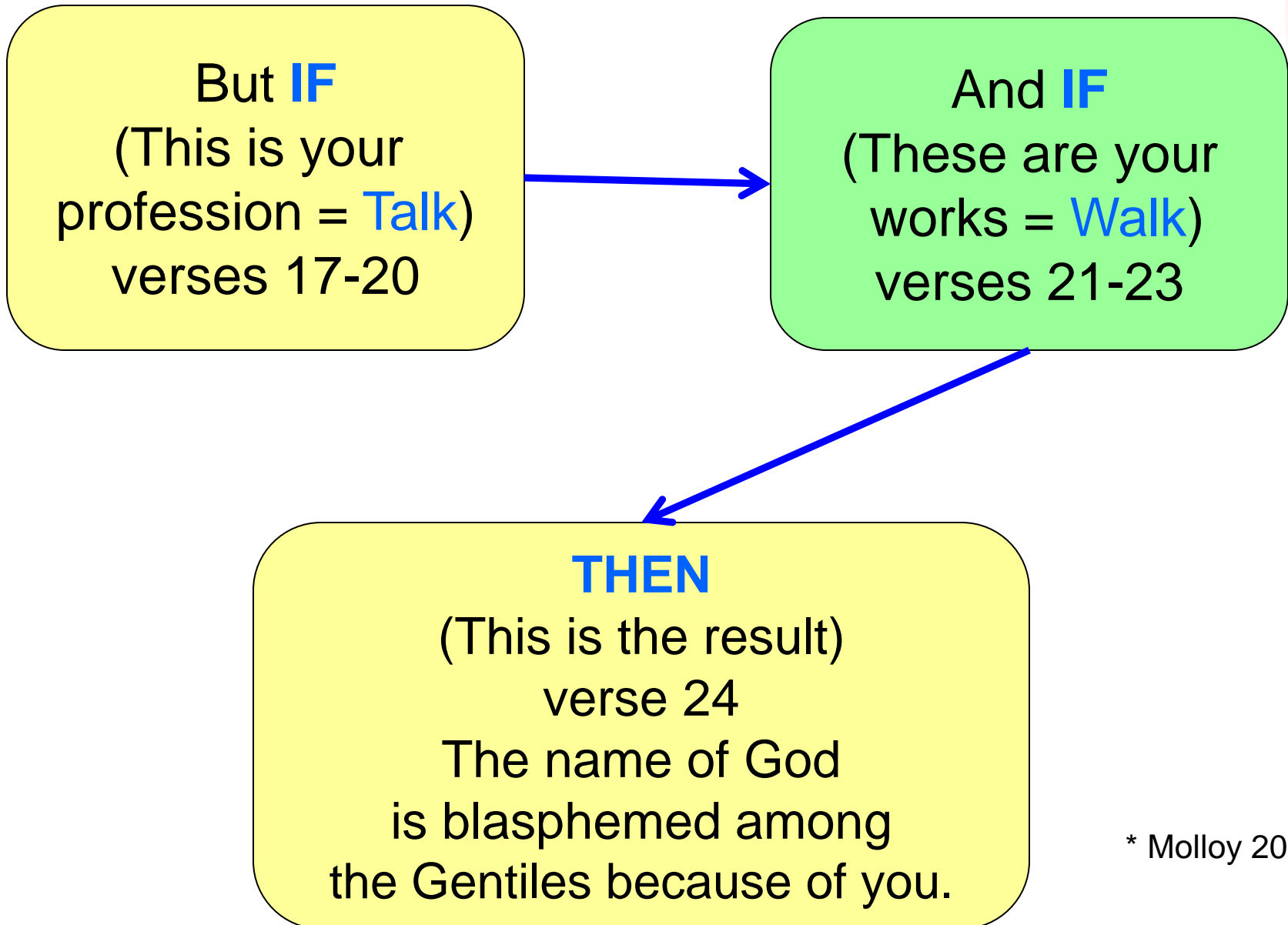


- 17 But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God,
- 18 and know *His* will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law,
- 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,
- 20 a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,
- 21 you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?
- 22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
- 23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?
- 24 For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.

A Conditional Sentence



Overview of Rom 2:17-24*



* Molloy 2006

The Jew's profession = your talk



17 **But if** you bear the name “Jew”

and rely upon the Law
and boast in God,

18 and know *His* will

and approve the things that are essential,
being instructed out of the Law,

19 and are confident that you yourself are
a guide to the blind,

a light to those who are in darkness,

20 a corrector of the foolish,

a teacher of the immature, having in the Law
the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth

The Jew's
possession

The Jew's
confidence

The three titles, Hebrew, Jew, and Israelite should be distinguished*



- The first distinguishes a Hebrew-speaking Jew from a Greek-speaking one.
- The second distinguishes a Jew from a Gentile, and denotes nationality.
- The third [Israelite] is the most august title of all, speaking of the fact that the Jew is a member of the theocracy, and thus an heir of the promises.

* Trench

But if [assumed true] - The Jew's profession = your talk

Verse
17

you bear the name "Jew"

- Called "My chosen people" and "the apple of His eye"
- John 5:16 the Jews were persecuting Jesus [for healing on the Sabbath]
- A Jew's confidence was in his heritage & not in the God that gave him his heritage.*

and rely upon the Law

- and have a blind and mechanical reliance on the law Wuest
- A Jew thought he could please God, be acceptable to God, and obtain righteousness from God if he kept the tenants of the Law.*

and boast in God

- A Jew was honoring God with his lips but his heart was far from God. Matt. 15:1-3,7-9
- Their worship (or reverence) was in vain (it was empty & had no purpose in the sight of God).*

* Molloy edited

and know *His* [the] will

- Probably a reference to God's word [Jews had the oracles of God – Rom 3:2].*
- They were proud of having His will/word.*
- Matt. 15:8 This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. * Molloy

and approve the things that are essential [or better], being instructed out of the Law

approve - *dokimazo* - to test with a view of approval
(not by God but by man)

- They had a head knowledge of the Law, but!
- Again “their heart is far away from Me.”
- The Jews had the most light but still rejected Christ as their Messiah.

and are confident that you yourself are -Jews' confidence

confident - *peithō* – lit: having persuaded yourself
(perfect tense)

- The Jews were confident in the past and continue to be confident into the present (in themselves not God!).

a guide to the blind

- They were blind themselves.*
- Matt. 15:14 Let them [Pharisees] alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.

a light to those who are in darkness,

- The Jews were to be a light to the Gentiles.*
- Isa. 42:6 I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness --- and I will appoint as a light to the nations.
- But their lives did not reflect the true God. * Molloy

a corrector of the foolish,

foolish - without reflection or intelligence

- Instructing / correcting via legalism doesn't edify nor did they gain favor with God*
- Apart from the cross "all is foolishness."* 1 Cor 1:18-27

a teacher of the immature,

immature is *nēpion* - that which does not talk [an infant]

- It was a term used by the Jews to designate proselytes or novices. Constable

having in the Law the embodiment [form] of knowledge and of the truth,

- Having in the Law the outward form of knowledge and truth – they had a facade! * Molloy

The Jews' work/conduct = Walk

Paul will now ask questions of the Jews



21 [And IF] you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?

You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?

22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?

You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?

The charges against the unbelieving Jews [v21 to 22]



You are not learning from your teaching

- The one who teaches another.
- 2 Tim 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

You are stealing

- The one teaching others not to steal was himself stealing. They may have done this by using the precious metals from idolatrous articles stolen from pagan temples. (cf. Deut. 7:25) Constable

You are committing adultery

- The one teaching others not to commit adultery was himself an adulterer.
- John 8:4 they* said to Him, Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act.

The charges against the unbelieving Jews [v22 to 23]



You are robbing temples

- The one teaching others was himself taking treasures from temples of idols.*
- Acts 19:37 For you have brought these men [Paul & others] here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.
- Evidently it was not uncommon for Jews to rob the temples of the pagan Gentiles. Constable

You are dishonoring God

- Paul is saying that the unbelieving, boastful and prideful Jew was a disgrace to God.* * Molloy



Summary of the charges

- This is an additional part of the IF statement.
 - The verbs in these statements are present, active, indicative.
 - Therefore it's a continuous action in the present by the Jews and it's reality.
 - Paul is not making an accusation but stating a question that must be answered yes.*
 - The religious Jew who has not trusted Christ must plead guilty.*
 - Paul, the prosecuting attorney, has proven that the Jews who have a special relationship to God are also guilty – just like Gentiles ! *
- * Molloy [edited]



24 For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.

This verse is the result of the Jews' Walk and Talk -
it's the **THEN** Statement:

- The Name of God because of you [Jews] is reviled among the Gentiles. Wuest

reviled - *blasphēmeō* - to blaspheme, rail at or revile -
of those who speak contemptuously of God

- Ezekiel 36:20 When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because **it was said of them**, These are the people of the LORD; yet they have come out of His land. ²¹ But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.

Final Thoughts*



- The Jews believed that they were exempt from God's wrath for the following reasons:
- They were given the Law of Moses directly from God.
- They had been Circumcised.
- They were Descendants of Abraham.
- But Paul is now showing them that:
- The Law cannot save you.
- Circumcision cannot save you [next week].
- And being Abraham's Descendent cannot save you.

* McCalley edited