

# Romans 2:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

## Analysis

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**For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written**—τὸ γὰρ ὄνομα τοῦ θεοῦ δι' ὑμᾶς βλασφημεῖται ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, καθὼς γέγραπται (to gar onoma tou theou di' hymas blasphemēitai en tois ethnesin, kathōs gegraptai). Paul quotes Isaiah 52:5 and Ezekiel 36:20-23, where Israel's exile caused Gentiles to mock God's inability to protect His people. Here the application shifts: hypocritical Jewish behavior causes Gentiles to βλασφημέω (blasphemēō, "blaspheme/revile") God's character.

Δι' ὑμᾶς (di' hymas, "through/because of you") assigns causation—Gentiles blaspheme God specifically because of Jewish hypocrisy. When God's covenant people violate the standards they proclaim, it discredits God Himself in observers' eyes. This isn't primarily about Gentile hostility but legitimate reproach: if God's law and people don't produce righteousness, why believe in Him? Hypocrisy is functional atheism—professing God while denying His transforming power (2 Timothy 3:5).

The phrase as it is written (καθὼς γέγραπται, kathōs gegraptai) Paul's standard formula for citing Scripture, demonstrates this isn't new criticism but longstanding prophetic indictment. Israel's history repeated cycles of covenant unfaithfulness leading to God's name being profaned among nations. Paul now applies this to first-century Jewish presumption, but the principle extends to Christian hypocrisy today (1 Peter 2:12).

## Historical Context

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Isaiah 52:5 addressed Babylonian exile—Gentiles mocked God as weak, unable to defend Israel. Ezekiel 36:20-23 addressed the same: Israel's dispersion profaned God's holy name, as if He couldn't keep covenant promises. By Paul's era, Roman occupation raised similar questions about God's power. But Paul pivots the application: the real blasphemy comes not from Israel's oppression but from their hypocrisy—claiming God's favor while living no differently than pagans, teaching righteousness while practicing sin.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does my hypocrisy—professing Christianity while living worldly—cause unbelievers to blaspheme God?
2. In what ways might my behavior discredit the gospel, making people conclude that Christian faith doesn't genuinely transform?
3. What would change in my life if I consistently asked: 'Will this action honor or dishonor God's name among those watching?'

## Interlinear Text

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τὸ γὰρ ὄνομα τοῦ θεοῦ δι' ὑμᾶς βλασφημεῖται  
G3588 For the name G3588 of God G2316 through G1223 you G5209 is blasphemed  
G1063 G3686 G2316 G1223 G5209 G987

ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν καθὼς γέγραπται  
among G3588 the Gentiles as G2531 it is written  
G1722 G1484 G2531 G1125

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 52:5** (Parallel theme): Now therefore, what have I here, saith the LORD, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the LORD; and my name continually every day is blasphemed.

**2 Peter 2:2** (Parallel theme): And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

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