**“Religious But Not Right With God”**

 **(Romans 2:17-29)**

 **In today’s text Paul continues to show man’s need for a**

 **Savior by explaining that religion – even the great rituals**

 **prescribed by God – cannot bring salvation.  Paul targets**

 **the most religious people, his own kinsmen the Jews, and**

 **demonstrates the folly of their…**

 **I. Heritage Without Humility  (17-20)**

* **Privileges and Advantages  (17-18)**

 **(Ps.33:12; 147:19-20; Rom.3:1-2; 9:4-5)**

* **Pride and Arrogance  (19-20)**

 **(Mat.23; Jn.8:31-58)**

 **II. Preaching Without Practice  (21-24)**

* **Hypocritical Teaching  (21-22)**

 **(Mat.5:27-28; 15:7-8; 23:14-16)**

* **Harmful Testimony  (23-24)**

 **(2 Sam.12:13-14; Is.52:5;  Ezek.36:17-24)**

 **III. Ritual Without Reality  (25-29)**

* **Outward Sign – Circumcision of the Flesh  (25-27)**

 **(Deut.10:16-17; 30:6; Jer.9:25-26; Ezek.44:9)**

* **Inward Spirituality – Circumcision of the Heart (28-29)**

 **(1 Sam.16:7; Ps.51:6, 16-17; Is.29:13; Rom.10:9-10)**

**“Religious But Not Right With God!” (Romans 2:17-29)**

**Small Group Discussion Guide**

**1. Share something from Sunday’s sermon that either raised**

 **a question or was the most interesting or challenging to you.**

**2. Read and discuss Rom.2:17-20.  What are some of the special**

 **privileges we have from God?  How can these privileges potentially**

 **do us more harm than good?  How can we guard against being**

 **arrogant or prideful about having these privileges?**

**3. Read and discuss Rom.2:21-24.  Which is more important,**

 **the message we preach or the life we live?  Why?  Can hypocrisy**

 **creep into our lives as we live the Christian life? How?**

**4. Read and discuss Rom.2:25-29.  If circumcision was instituted**

 **by God, then why was it a problem for the Jews that Paul is**

 **addressing? What are some things that people (even professing**

 **Christians) sometimes trust to get them to Heaven?  Why is**

 **baptism important, and what part does it have in our salvation?**

**5. Why does Paul make a distinction about being a Jew “inwardly”**

 **and not just “outwardly”?  What can we do to make sure we are**

 **following Christ with our hearts, and not just external behavior?**

**Digging Deeper**

**Read Matthew 23 and jot down the ways that the practice of the Jews**

**had become externalism and not a true heart-relationship with God.**

**What was the source of pride for the Jewish leaders in John 8:31-58?**

**Compare and contrast the two men Jesus describes in Luke 18:9-14.**

**Note Paul’s great love and respect for the Jewish people in Rom.9:1-5**

**and Rom. 10:1-4.  How did Paul escape the folly of trusting in his own**

**good works according to Phil.3:3-9?**

**Read the following O.T. verses & note how God ALWAYS emphasized the importance of a “heart-relationship” with Him.  Deut.6:5-6; 10:12,**

**16-17; 11:13; 13:3; 30:6; 32:46; Ps.51:6, 16-17; Mat.15:7-8; 22:36-40; Rom.10:9-10**