



RELIGION ON TRIAL

ROMANS 2:17–3:8 * FEBRUARY 12, 2023

FALSE HOPE | EMPTY PROMISES

JEREMIAH 14:13-14; ISAIAH 30:9-11; 2 TIMOTHY 4:3

TWO IMPORTANT TERMS

- ➡ The Law = the _____ laws of Moses (to which God demands _____ compliance).
- ➡ Circumcision = an outward _____ of what should be true on the inside.

WHAT WE OFTEN COUNT ON BUT CAN'T MAKE US RIGHT WITH GOD

- ① _____ in God (that is only _____ assent).
- ② Bible _____.
- ③ Religious _____.

RELIGION REVEALS ITSELF

- ❶ Religion emphasizes the _____ over the spiritual — underscoring pious activities and the keeping up of _____.
- ❷ Religion emphasizes secondary matters while _____ matters of primary importance.
- ❸ Religion promotes _____ above all else.

Because religion profoundly affects how we _____ to God, it also changes how we think and the _____ we make.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. At a time when you were accused of some wrongdoing, how did you feel? How did you try to deal with your feelings of guilt or shame?
2. Read Romans 2:17-24. In this passage Paul focused his attention on a hypocritical Jew. How does such a person view himself and others? Why would non-Jews blaspheme God's name because of such people? How has religious hypocrisy hurt the cause of Christ in our day?
3. Read Romans 2:25-29. Jews placed great value on circumcision because it was the visible sign that they were God's people. How had some of them confused the sign with what it signified? How might religious people today have a similar misunderstanding about baptism or some other ritual or practice?
4. According to verses 25-29, what is circumcision of the heart and how is it demonstrated?
5. Read Romans 3:1-8. What responsibilities go along with being entrusted with God's words? What implications does this have for Christians (and you personally), who have even more of God's words than the Jews had? What are some advantages of growing up in a religious home? What are some disadvantages?
6. Some non-Christians have high moral standards. How can we use their own standards to help them see their need of Christ? What do your words and actions communicate to non-Christians about the nature of your faith?