LIFE 425 church

ROMANS: THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

Week 5 — Religion Without Heart Change

Romans 2:17–29

Big Idea: External religion cannot replace inward transformation.

Key Verse: "...circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit..." — Romans 2:29 (NIV)

1. KNOWING THE TRUTH ISN'T THE SAME AS _____ THE TRUTH — Romans 2:17–20

It's possible to know about God without allowing what we know to change how we live. Information about God is not the same as transformation by God.

Question: Is what I know about God changing the way I live?

2. IT'S EASIER TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE'S _____ — Romans 2:21–24

"You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?" — Romans 2:21

Before asking, "What's wrong with them?" ask, "God, what needs to change in me?"

People aren't looking for Christians to be perfect. They're looking to see if what we believe is real.

3. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY CAN'T CHANGE THE _____ — Romans 2:25–27

Church attendance. Baptism. Serving. Giving. Knowing the Bible. These can all be good things, but none can replace a genuine relationship with Jesus.

Religion changes what people see. The gospel changes who we are.

4. GOD WORKS FROM THE _____ OUT — Romans 2:28–29

Greek word: KARDIA — καρδία, meaning **heart**. The heart represents our desires, motives, thoughts, will, and affections.

Religion says, "Change your behavior so God will accept you." The gospel says, "God's grace changes your heart, and your life begins to change."

The Question: Am I simply around Christianity, or is Christ actually changing me?

A changed heart doesn't mean perfection. It means God is changing the direction of my life.

My Prayer This Week: "God, don't just change what people see. Change me."