

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- Who were some of your earliest Christian influences? What do you remember about the way they lived?
- What are some outward signs that people rely upon to try to be in right relationship with God?

Read

- Romans 2:12-29

Observe

- How does Paul distinguish between Gentile (verses 12-16) and Jew (verses 17-27) What does Paul say that they have in common?
- What was the original intent of the law and of circumcision (see Genesis 17:1-14)? How does Paul say this is being twisted in his time?
- What do you think Paul means by “circumcision of the heart in verse 29? What does God “cut away” from our hearts? Compare this to Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6.

Apply

- The Jews were given the great privilege of having God’s law. What privileges has God given you? How have you misused these privileges?
- What happens when we say that we believe what the Bible teaches but don’t follow its commands? How have you been guilty of this?

Prayer

- *Ask* God to show you areas in your life where your actions don’t line up with what you say you believe (hypocrisy).
- *Confess* your hypocrisies and ask God to change your actions and motivations..