**United in the Gospel: “Practicing Religion”**

**Romans 2:17-29**

**June 28, 2020**

**I. The hypocrisy of religion (vs. 17-24)**

Matthew 23:13 – *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.”*

Isaiah 29:13 – *“And the Lord said: ‘Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and the fear of me is a commandment taught by men…’”*

**II. The lack of obedience in religion (vs. 25-27)**

*“Circumcise therefore your heart, and be no longer stubborn.”* (Deut. 10:16).

**III. The changed heart replaces religion (vs. 28-29)**

**Faith Sheet:**

1. What is something that you’re now pretty good at doing with a lot of practice? How close are you to perfecting that skill? In what ways do you still fall short?
2. Why is it that we, even as followers of Christ, will never be perfect in our attitudes and actions while in this world? (See 1 John 2:15-17) Discuss how these three still affect believers in Christ.
3. This section of Scripture is asking us to look at our lives. What clear transformation do you see since you came to follow Jesus? What do you still want to see in your life?
4. How can other people recognize whether you worship and serve the Lord from the heart? Answer and then read some ways we display our transformation in Christ and discuss how to grow in these areas. (Matthew 22:37-40, 28:18-20, Acts 20:20-21, Philippians 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, and 1 John 2:6)