

### Going deeper

This chapter is a long one of biting condemnation by Jesus on the religious leaders of Jesus's day. It is the climax of Jesus's debates in the temple precincts between his triumphal entry and his arrest and crucifixion.

### Read Matthew 23:1-12

5. What attitude does Jesus say his followers should have to the teaching of the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees?
  
6. What does he say is the fundamental problem with these teachers?
  
7. Who are these teachers trying to impress? How do they go about it? What are the modern equivalents of this behaviour?
  
8. What is the principle behind the commands Jesus gives in verses 8-10? How might we apply this principle today?
  
9. How are the people described in Romans 2:17-24, 'exalting themselves'? How is trusting in the good news 'humbling yourself'?

***Now do the applying it to our lives questions...***



**Week Beginning  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

### Growth Team News

This week is the last Growth Team session before a half-term break. Growth Teams will start up again the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever**



## Religious Identity doesn't Save

*Romans 2:17-29 (page 1129-1130)*

*Space to take notes on the talk*

- Do you believe in \_\_\_\_\_?
  
- Being a \_\_\_\_\_ is not enough
  
- Being a \_\_\_\_\_ is not enough
  
- Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Starter question

- ❖ Would you say the UK is a 'Christian country'?

## Responding to the talk

1. From the talk what did you think was the most important warning and what did you think was the most important encouragement?
2. Read Romans 2:17-24
  - a. How did the 'Jews' Paul seems to be talking to think the Law made them superior?
  - b. What goes wrong when high profile 'Bible preachers' disobey God's word? (cf. 2:23-24)
  - c. Why is this passage **not** saying the Law was bad? (cf. 3:1-2; 7:7ff)
3. Read Romans 2:25-27
  - a. Why wasn't circumcision enough to save people?
  - b. Is circumcision necessary for salvation? (cf. 4:9-12)
  - c. Why is verse 27 such a challenge to the 'superior Jews'? (cf. Mt. 12:41-42)
4. Read Romans 2:28-29
  - a. What is meant by 'circumcision of the heart'? (cf. Dt. 30:6)
  - b. How is this inner transformation different to the attitude described in 2:17-20?
  - c. In Hebrew the word 'Jew' is similar to the word for 'praise'. What play on words is Paul using here?

*You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.*

## Applying it to our lives

10. What is the difference between liking Christian values and being a true Christian?
11. How would you respond to someone who says that being baptised ensures you have a place in heaven?