***Life Group / Reflection Questions***

1. When people are judgmental, how do they reveal both an understanding and a misunderstanding of God's judgment (vv. 1-4)?

2. Verses 5-16 describe a future day of judgment known as "the day of God's wrath" (v. 5). What will God consider important and unimportant on that day?

3. How are God's standards of judgment both similar and different for the two groups described in verses 12-16?

4. In verses 17-29 Paul focuses his attention on a hypocritical Jew. (Also, think of it as a hypocritical Christians) How does such a person view himself and others (vv. 17-20)?

5. 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 (vv. 25-29)What traditions and symbols do Christians sometimes depend on instead of simply trusting Jesus ?  
  
6. How has religious hypocrisy hurt the cause of Christ in our day?

7. Many non-Christians have high moral standards. How can we use their own standards to help them see their need of Christ?

8. How can this chapter help you to more effectively share the gospel with respectable, religious or moral non-Christians?

**June 5, 2016**

***“The Religious Need Jesus***

**Wave Church SD**



**Live Free… Live Jesus…**

*Wave exists to set lives free to live fully alive with Jesus*

Chapter 1- Self-centered irreligion is a rejection of God

Chapter 2- Self- **RIGHTEOUS RELIGION** is a rejection of God

Marked by being **JUDGEMENTAL**

**The trap of being Religious**

1. We **JUDGE** with a **DOUBLE STANDARD**

*You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.* ***2****Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.****3****So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment?* ***4****Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?* (Romans 2:1-4, NIV)

Welcomes God’s wrath on others but think they are exempt themselves.

2. We trust in what we **SAY** not what we **DO**

***5****But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.****6****God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”****7****To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.* ***8****But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.****9****There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;****10****but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.****11****For God does not show favoritism.* (Romans 2:5-11, NIV)

If I say it loud enough and long enough it must be true.

3. We rely on our own **OUTWARD GOODNESS**

***17****Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God;****18****if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law;****19****if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark,****20****an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—****21****you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?* ***22****You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?****23****You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?****24****As it is written: “God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”*  (Romans 2:17-24, NIV)

Believes God owes them because they are so good.

4. We depend on spiritual **TRADITIONS**

***25****Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised.****26****So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law’s requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?****27****The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.* ***28****A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.****29****No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.* (Romans 2:28-29, NIV)

**How to avoid being judgmentally religious**

Accept **GRACE** then Extend **GRACE**

***9****Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men****10*** *nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.****11****And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.* (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, NIV)