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Valley Church

February 3 & 6, 2022
Week 5: New Hearts Needed!

Message Notes on Romans 2:17-29

The Big Idea:

One of the core promises of the New Covenant is the new spirit and new heart you've received as a gift of grace. You have been transformed at the core, the moment you trusted Christ. The process of New Covenant discipleship is working out (not working "for") that amazing grace in the way you live!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Have you spent any significant personal time in Romans since the series started? If so, how is your interaction with the letter impacting you so far?

Ponderings:

2. In the weekend message it was noted that while God's image has not been erased in human beings, it has been defaced by sin. Theologians refer to this as the "depravity of mankind." What, in your understanding, does it mean that we are born with a "depraved" nature? Discuss...
3. Realizing that the "flesh" is with you but also that it is *not* the are still prominent in your life as a believer? How has the grip of those things been loosened over time by the power of Christ's life in you? Explained...
4. In Romans 2:24, Paul states that God's name was being blasphemed among the pagan nations because of the very religious people who viewed themselves as so far superior to the rest of the world. To what extent, in your opinion, is religious arrogance (whether real or perceived) a stumbling block to people outside the Body of Christ today?
5. Paul tells the Jewish believers that a real Jew is someone who is circumcised *inwardly* and not outwardly. This "circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit" (vs. 29) is real and true for every believer in Christ. If that is the case, why do so many Christians struggle to walk according to their new nature and identity in Christ? Discuss...
6. How have you personally found victory and growth through a deeper embrace of who you are in Christ and who He is in you? Try to share a specific story or example...

Prompts:

7. What, if anything, makes you sometimes doubt the reality of your new heart? When you struggle with this conflict, how do you generally go about resolving it and walking by faith in the truth of your identity rather than passing feelings. Encourage others in the group by sharing about this part of your faith journey...