

Jesus' requirement is singular: **loving** (obeying) God from the **heart**

### The Two Kinds of Religion in the world

- Man trying to establish a **righteousness** of one's own with God
- God giving us a righteousness that comes to us in **Christ**

The false religions of man fail...

- Because God requires **heart obedience**
- The heart is the source of our **problems**

God's gifts cannot be **earned** - but can be **received by faith** in Christ.

### Small Group Discussion Guide:

1. The religion Jesus confronted was a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Judaism. Describe the characteristics of this religion.
2. Have you experienced in your life some of these same characteristics in religion?
3. What alternative religion did Jesus offer people?
4. Pastor Dave says "True religion is freedom in Christ?" Do you agree or disagree? Why?
5. Why do you think there is something inside us that prefers rules and regulations over freedom?

6. Do you believe that by obeying religious rules and regulations that we can become good enough to be accepted by God?

7. Jesus said, “*You have got to be more righteous than the Pharisees?*” How can we become more righteous than the Pharisees?

8. Talk about the freedom there is IN CHRIST.

### Daily Reading Plan:

This Reading Plan is an aide to help focus on “The Life of Christ” message series. Each week’s reading’s are preparatory for the upcoming message.

Monday - Matthew 15; Matthew 16

Tuesday - Matthew 17

Wednesday - Matthew 18

Thursday - Matthew 19

Friday - Matthew 20

Weekend - Mark 9; Mark 10



# Redeeming Notes

Pastor Dave Glesne.....Two Kinds of Religion  
October 16, 2005  
Matthew 5:20

The religion Jesus confronted was a 1<sup>st</sup> Century **Judaism**

- He challenges the **whole shape** of their religion.
- The scribes and Pharisees were tremendously **religious people**
- They had a grid through which they ran the whole **religion of the Old Testament**
- Their religion was one of little **rules and regulations**

What is true religion?

**Jesus** is true religion.

True religion is **freedom in Christ**

There is something in the human heart which fears **freedom** more than anything else.

We go wrong in thinking that by obeying religious rules and regulations, we can become **good enough** to be accepted by God.

- **Sin** is not taken seriously enough
- The **grace of God** is not taken seriously enough