

## MAIN POINT

*Whether we consider ourselves religious and moral or not, we are all in desperate need of a Savior.*

## INTRODUCTION

Think back to when you were a child. What's the best or most creative excuse you ever used with someone in authority to avoid taking responsibility for something you had done wrong?

What does our propensity to make excuses for ourselves reveal about the way we truly see ourselves?

**In Romans 1, Paul made the argument that there is enough apparent about God in nature to condemn. Even people who have never read the Bible or heard a sermon preached know enough to know that God is the Creator they have sinned against. At the beginning of chapter 2, he turned his attention to any one who might think they are exempt from God's judgment because of religious activity or morality. But as with the rest of humanity, the end of chapter 2 shows us that those who rely on religious performance and works of morality are as lost as those who are self-admittedly far from God.**

## DISCUSSION

### > READ ROMANS 2:11-29.

Why is it significant that God does not show partiality?

What are the standards by which God will judge people? How do you reconcile these verses with Romans 1:17—was Paul now saying we are saved by good works? How does this fit with the rest of Scripture?

How do Paul's words in verses 14-15 support his earlier point that God has revealed the truth about Himself in the created world and no one has an excuse before Him?

What were the people Paul addressed in these verses trusting in?

Do you have the tendency to trust in your own religious performance? Why do you think that pull is so strong?

How might doing so result in the name of God being blasphemed among non-believers (v. 24)?

How does trusting in your own acts of righteousness actually dishonor the sacrifice of Jesus?

## APPLICATION

What is one thing other than Jesus you are tempted to put your trust in? What is a healthy way you can remind yourself of your need for a Savior this week?