

# Sermon Discussion Questions: Romans 1-2



## **Romans 1:1-17 | Romans Introduction**

- 1) What are you most looking forward to in our study of Romans?
- 2) The setting & context for Romans is both similar and dissimilar to ours. How?
- 3) What was Paul's purpose(s) for writing his letter to the Romans? Also, what was his heart for the Romans? How might that purpose and heart relate to us?
- 4) What are some questions you hope to have answered (or topics in which you hope to gain greater understanding) through our study of Romans?
- 5) What is one area of your walk with God you hope to grow in this upcoming year? How might Romans help you? How might your group pray for you?

## **Romans 1:1-17 | Paul & Apostleship**

- 1) Paul calls himself both an apostle and servant. What is a title you'd use for yourself and why?
- 2) What are some facts about the apostle Paul? Who was he, where was he from, how was he called as an apostle? In other words, what is his story?
- 3) What are some facts about you? What is your story?
- 4) Paul spoke (and wrote) with authority as an apostle. What authority are you most listening to right now and why? If it's not the Word of God, why?
- 5) Paul's received "apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name." How might you grow in your faith & obedience to Christ? How might you encourage others to do the same? Spend some time praying for one another.

## **Romans 1:1-17 | The Gospel**

- 1) How would you define the gospel?
- 2) Paul says the gospel is about Jesus Christ. Which of the characteristics listed about Jesus in verses 2-4 most strikes you and why?
- 3) Paul also says the gospel is about faith & righteousness (verse 17). How do we become righteous by faith? Why is this good news?
- 4) The gospel is to be believed and proclaimed. How might you grow in your faith in Jesus? Be specific about any doubts, fears, or shame you're facing. How might you grow in your proclamation of the gospel? Be specific about which people you can share the gospel with. Spend time as a group praying for these things.

## **Romans 1:18-23**

- 1) When was a time you or someone you know was really angry? Tell the story!
- 2) Paul says that God's wrath is against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. What does this tell us about God? What does this tell us about man and His relationship to God?
- 3) Paul says that man has suppressed the truth about God. How have you seen this in our world? How have you seen this in your own heart?
- 4) According to Paul, what is the progression that takes place in the human heart as he/she moves away from the Lord. How have you seen this in your own life?
- 5) Idolatry is worshiping someone or something rather than God. What idol are you tempted to trust in or find your value/identity in rather than God? How can you repent and turn back to the Lord? How can your group encourage you?

## **Romans 1:24-32**

- 1) When you see the sin of the world, how does it make you feel?
- 2) In this passage, Paul repeats the phrase “God gave them up” three times. What does this reveal about God? What does this reveal about sin?
- 3) Idolatry is an exchange of glory (v. 23) and truth (v. 25). What person, thing, or idea are you tempted to see as more glorious than God? What lie are you tempted to believe rather than the truth of God?
- 4) Paul lists many examples of sinful people and practices, all of which deserve the punishment of death. Which of these has God particularly delivered you from as you have turned your life to Christ? Praise Him for His salvation!
- 5) Which of these sinful patterns are you tempted to turn back to rather than to follow God? What practical steps can you take to pursue the Lord rather than sin? How might your group pray for you and hold you accountable?

## **Romans 2:1-16**

- 1) There are two enemies of the gospel: licentiousness & legalism. Which of these do you tend towards?
- 2) In chapter 1, Paul spoke about the Gentiles’ licentiousness; in chapter 2, Paul speaks about the Jews’ legalism. How are these 2 patterns of living the same & different? Explain how both need the gospel.
- 3) What are Paul’s instructions to the legalist? Which instruction is particularly convicting for you? What truth of the gospel do you need to hear when you’re tempted towards legalism?
- 4) Paul says that Gentiles unfamiliar with the Bible still have the law written on their hearts. What might this truth teach us about God, about man, and about the gospel?
- 5) Tribulation and distress await those who do evil, but glory, honor, and peace await those who do good (verses 9-10). How might this promise encourage you to keep following the Lord?

## **Romans 2:17-29**

- 1) When was a time that you were particularly proud? What were the circumstances? What was going on in your heart?
- 2) Paul lists 6 good things (blessings) that the Jews used as an opportunity for boasting. Talk about how a blessing can so easily turn into boasting. What area of your life are you tempted to boast in right now? How can you praise the Lord rather than praise yourself?
- 3) Paul warns the Jews of their hypocrisy and tells them to “practice what they preach.” He also says that their disobedience has led the Gentiles away from the Lord as well. How might God use this warning in your life?
- 4) True circumcision is a matter of the heart, not the flesh. How has the Lord cut your heart recently? Where do you sense the Lord calling you to greater commitment to follow Him? Ask your group to pray for you.