

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 20, 2013

Passage: Romans 1:1-5:2

Memory Passage: Romans 5:1-2

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 1.** As preparation for our return to Romans we will spend most of this week reviewing what we learned in chapters 1-4 (Days 1-4) and then look at our text for this week, Romans 5:1-2 (Day 5). We begin with chapter 1: What do you learn about Paul, his calling, and his mission? To whom does he write this letter and what do you learn about them?
- (b) What do you learn about “the gospel of God” and what does Jesus have to do with it? Explain the content of 1:16-17, and why these verses constitute the theme of Romans. How is 1:16-17 connected to 1:18ff and why is this important?
- (c) What do you learn about general revelation (i.e. God’s revelation of Himself through creation)? What has been clearly revealed in creation? How has sinful man responded to God’s mercy in general revelation and what is the result? What *should have been* their response? To what 3 things did God “give them up” as a result of this idolatry?
- (d) Read this short blog post: <http://aliencitizens.wordpress.com/2013/01/09/ashamed-of-the-gospel/> Have you had your own version of Cornell’s bus ride? His transparency should help you understand how to recognize your own sin and respond in humble repentance. How can meditating on Romans 1 (all parts of it) help you to live unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Don’t just focus on 1:16-17 but consider the entire chapter.
- (e) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) – (d) above.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 2.** To what is God’s kindness and forbearance meant to lead? If one is lead to this, how does this affect one’s standing with regard to God’s righteous wrath? What happens if one’s heart remains hard?
- (b) Explain how God’s promise to “render to each one according to his works” (2:6) does not negate salvation by grace through faith alone. Explain what is meant by “God shows no partiality” (2:11).
- (c) In what ways are the truths found in 2:28-29 essential for understanding what is taught in 2:12ff? Explain how a Gentile (who does not have the law) is judged by God for their sin, how a Jew (who does have the law) is judge by God for their sin, and then compare the 2 by relating how they are different and how they are alike.
- (d) According to 2:28-29, who is the “true Jew” and why? Why is this fact important to Paul’s argument in Romans? Given this fact, of what value is circumcision (2:25-27)? How does chapter 2 help us better understand God’s plan to gather and provide for a people for Himself?
- (e) Consider what you have reviewed in chapter 2 and write down at least 3 applications for your own life, applications that you will begin to implement this week. Be ready to share these with your class, as well as the fruit of implementing them, to edify others toward greater obedience to what Paul teaches in Romans 2.
- (f) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) – (e) above.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 3.** Summarize the questions Paul supposes his interlocutors will ask about the doctrine he has taught, why they might have asked them, and Paul’s answers (3:1-18). What do you learn about God’s character in 3:1-18?
- (b) Explain Paul’s summary statement found in 3:19-20. Why is the “but now” that begins v. 21 so important? How does 3:21-22 relate to Paul’s theme found in 1:16-17?
- (c) Define the following terms found in 3:20-26: Righteousness of God, law, faith, sin, glory of God, justified, grace, redemption, propitiation, divine forbearance. Now summarize Paul’s description in 3:20-26 of God’s work in Christ.
- (d) *Family:* Lead your family through (a) – (c) above.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 4.** Why is it important for Paul to show that Abraham was not justified by works (4:2)? Why is it important for *you* to know that Abraham was not justified by works? Using 8 words or less, summarize the main point of chapter 4.
- (b) Fill in the following blanks: 4:3-8 teaches faith apart from \_\_\_\_\_. 4:9-12 teaches faith apart from \_\_\_\_\_. 4:13-16 teaches faith apart from \_\_\_\_\_. 4:17-22 teaches faith apart from \_\_\_\_\_. Now explain Paul’s argument in each of these 4 sections, and how they are connected to form the main point of chapter 4 that you summarized in question (a).

(c) Now re-read each of these 4 sections and for each one write 2 applications for 21<sup>st</sup> century believers in BCC. Be ready to share these to start discussion during your class.

(d) *Family*: Lead your family through (a) – (c) above.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 5:1-2.** Why does our justification by faith result in peace with God? How is that peace “through our Lord Jesus Christ?” What exactly does peace with God entail and why would anyone need it (cf. John 14:27)?

(b) Look back at your definitions for justification and grace from Day 3 (c) as you answer these questions: How has justification resulted in believers obtaining “access by faith into this grace?” To what is Paul referring? How is faith the vehicle through which we acquire both justification and access?

(c) What is the glory of God in which we hope? Why is it a hope (indicating future) even though we are currently standing in God’s grace and are currently justified? Why should we rejoice in this hope now?

(d) Since we have these promises, especially seen on the Day of Judgment when we will fully receive God’s peace rather than receive God’s wrath and we will experience His glory, how should your life reflect these strong promises (especially since you have already been justified and obtained access into grace and currently stand in it)?

(e) *Family*: **Read Rom. 5:1-2.** Ask your family to tell you things for which they hope. List on your white board the things they mention. Then spend time showing that each thing for which they hope has the potential of not happening (e.g. your upcoming vacation or this weekend’s plans might not happen if you don’t have enough money or the weather prohibits it). Now ask, “What things in life can you be sure of?” Examples might be the sun coming up in the morning and setting at night, God loving His people, Jesus’ return, etc. Now explain that the Bible uses the word “hope” to refer to events that we can trust to be sure, not that we desire but know they might not happen. Now have your family list the effects of justification found in these verses (peace with God, obtaining access into grace, currently standing in grace, rejoicing in hope of the glory of God). Remind them of the definitions for justified, grace, glory of God, and faith that you came up with in Day 3 (c) as you teach.

**DATE: January 20, 2013**

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#### *Peace, Grace, & Hope*

In Romans 5:1-2 Paul encourages us by telling us three provisions of being justified by faith.