

**Study Guide- Sunday September 21, 2014**

The purpose of this study guide is to be a tool for ABF's/small groups to follow the sermon series. Feel free to expand and facilitate discussion based on what's best for your group. Our hope is that groups will use this guide to respond to what they've heard and apply it for life.

**Read Romans 3:1-20 together.**

**Observation:**

- Chapter 1 & 2 of Romans leads us right into the first 20 verses of chapter 3. Paul makes it very clear that all are under God's wrath, no one is righteous, and that there is no distinction whether Jew or Greek. God judges everyone by the same standard.
- (v.1-8) Paul answers objections about the advantages of religion.
- (v.9-20) Paul shows that none are righteous and that everyone is under sin and under the power of sin.
- How does this section prepare the way for God's solution to mankind's sin problem?
  - Paul uses the law to do this (v 19-20). No one can justify himself. Brings the knowledge of sin. Shows our sickness and guilt. Makes the proud humble.

**Application:**

- Paul is arguing in the first few verses that the Jews did have an advantage knowing the words of God (oracles). What advantages or disadvantages do those have who grew up in the church (hearing God's word)? What advantages or disadvantages do those have who grew up outside of the church?
- Paul teaches in this text that no one is righteous, that no one seeks God. He uses this to show that both Jews and Greeks are under sin. As believers, how can this truth help us in our walk with Christ?
- We talked about the purposes of the law found in verses 19 and 20 (makes the proud humble and brings the knowledge of sin). Does the law serve a purpose for us as believers today? If so, what is its purpose?

**Read Romans 3:21-31 together.**

**Observation:**

- Have your group define the following words in relation to God: righteousness, glory (holiness), justification, propitiation

The righteousness of God

- (v.21-24) How is the righteousness of God received in these verses?
  - v. 21 It is not based on keeping the law
  - v.22 It is received through faith in Jesus Christ
  - vv.22b-23 It is needed by and available to every person
  - v.24 It is free to us but costly to Christ
- (v.25-31) How is the righteousness of God provided in these verses?
  - v. 25 It is based on Christ's death
  - v.26 It satisfies both God's justice and love
  - vv.27-28 It gives all glory to God, no boasting in man
  - vv.29-30 It shows God to be God of the whole world
  - v.31 It satisfies the law of God

After these observations, what truths do we learn about God? About man?

- Consider writing these down next to each verse above as an exercise.
- Paul has made it clear that salvation comes to us as a gift received by faith, not by works. Paul also says that God's commandments are not abolished. How then does justification by faith uphold the law? In other words, how does the law apply before and after salvation?
  - The law before faith in Christ brings condemnation and death. The law after faith in Christ is a joyful delight for the believer. Just because we receive grace, does not give us the license to live how we want. God's law (commandments) after salvation is our protector, gives direction, and is kept (upheld) through the power of the Spirit.

#### **Application:**

- Paul says the gospel excludes boasting (v.27). How does it do that?
- In what subtle ways do you ever find yourself boasting in your justification (as if you earned or deserved it)? How does this subtle arrogance hinder your walk with God? How does it hinder your relationship with fellow believers?

#### **Application for Justification, Redemption, and Propitiation**

- The word **justification** (v. 24) means being declared not guilty. How does this truth change the way you live? In other words, how would you respond and live if someone took your sentence for you?
  - Removes any boasting, weight of sin removed.
  - Illustration: Judge laying out sentence, but someone steps in and takes your punishment and therefore satisfies the penalty setting you free.
- The word **redemption** (v. 24) is borrowed from the slave market. It means to buy someone out of slavery. From what types of slavery has Christ delivered you? What areas of your life have you seen redemption (God's taken your bad/sin and used it for good).
  - Example: A person with an addiction overcomes it as a believer and helps someone else overcome that same addiction.
- The word **propitiation** (v. 25) means to satisfy the wrath of God through Christ's blood atonement. This means for the believer that God's wrath against our sin has been satisfied. In what areas of your life do you struggle believing this truth? How has this truth changed your life?
  - Living with continual guilt over previous sin.
  - I live in freedom from my previous sins but am a bondservant to Christ. My life is no longer mine. Because He died, I am united in His death.
- If we are justified, redeemed, and atoned for, what then shall we boast in? Why are these truths so important to gospel living?

#### **Sermon Notes/Additional Questions**