



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families

For the week of February 12, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What is something you “do religiously”; a practice or commitment that you will do, come what may. Why are you so committed to it?

Romans 3:1-20

Everyone Needs the Gospel

In chapter two, Paul said that the Jew can't be moral enough to fulfill the very Law he honors. And so, he blasphemes the name of God (Romans 2:17-24). Then Paul said that the Jew can't be religious enough to change the heart (Romans 2:25-29). Paul knew this would raise some objections! So, he addresses those in this week's passage.

Q: “But then the Word failed. So many of the Jews haven't believed the Gospel.” (3a)

A: “No. Our faithlessness only reveals how faithful He is.” (3b-4)

Q: “But if God is faithful in response to our faithlessness, how could He judge anyone?” (5)

A: “He will judge unbelief. That IS God being faithful in response to our faithlessness (6-7). And anyone who says that God does not judge unbelief and you should sin so God will love you is worthy of that judgment. I am definitely not encouraging evil!” (8)

- Why does Paul assume we will have so many objections to what he's been teaching?

¹Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ²Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.”

⁵But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

In Romans 3:1-8, Paul states and answers three objections. Here's a summary:

Q: “Paul, are you saying there is no advantage to Biblical religion?” (1)

A: “No, it is really valuable to have and know the Word (‘oracles’) of God.” (2)

⁹What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one.”

¹³“Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

¹⁵“Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- **Paul says that every person is under sin (9). What does that mean? How can both religious (Jews) and irreligious (pagan) people be alike under sin?**
- **Paul lists the effects of sin (11-18). What are they?**
- **Paul says “no one seeks for God” (11). What does this mean? Aren’t a lot of people searching for God? What does this mean for anyone who is truly seeking to come into God’s presence?**
- **Paul says “no one does good” and that our deeds are “worthless” (12). But read [Matthew 5:16](#)--Jesus says we are to do “good works”. Which one is it?**
- **What is the “fear of God” (18)? How does the fact that we do not fear God summarize everything that Paul is saying about sin?**

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

- **It’s crucial to God that “every mouth be stopped” (19). What is this? Has this happened to you?**
- **Pray together in light of this week’s passage.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

