

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 10, 2013

Passage: Romans 5:9-11

Memory Passage: Romans 6:5 (and review 6:1-4)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 5:1-11.** Summarize the teaching found in each of the first 3 sections of this passage (1-2, 3-5, 6-8). How does each section relate to what has preceded? How does it prepare for what follows? What one word best captures the teaching of all 8 verses?
- (b) What did you learn that was new during your study of Rom. 5:1-8? Did you learn a new way to understand a doctrine? Something new about the character of God? Something new about your character? A deeper understanding of something that you already thought you fully knew? New ways to glorify God by applying the text? Etc. etc. etc.
- (c) Think back on the last 3 weeks of your study, and write down at least 3 (and you should easily write more ☺) applications of vs. 1-8 to which you have been introduced. Now write down how you have implemented them, what results the Holy Spirit has produced through applying the word in these ways, and anything you have learned new about yourself and God. If you can't come up with 3 applications that you have actually applied, then write down at least 3 applications that you intend to apply during the next week. Spend some time in prayer asking God to keep these applications at the forefront of your mind so you don't go another week *desiring* to pursue your sanctification but not actually pursuing it.
- (d) **Family: Read Rom. 5:1-8.** Lead your family through a review of these verses. You might find some help in accomplishing this by working through (a) – (c) above on your own, and then leading your family through some of the questions as well. Remember to seek for *their* understanding, not just “tell them what it says.” Try to ask questions that probe what they learned rather than tell them what they should have learned, and then build upon their knowledge.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 5:9-11.** To what does the “therefore” refer in v. 9? How are believers “justified by (Jesus’) blood” (see 3:25-26 for help)? Why was the shedding of Jesus’ blood necessary for believers to be justified?
- (b) Paul argues from the greater concept to the lesser in vs. 9 & 10 (“since . . . how much more”). Why does he think being justified by Jesus’ blood is a greater, or more far reaching, act than being saved from the wrath of God? Why does this justification necessarily result in being saved from God’s wrath?
- (c) What, exactly, *is* God’s wrath? What have you learned about God’s wrath so far in Romans? Why does it exist? Why must God exercise His wrath? Does *all* sin (even believers’ sin) both deserve and receive God’s wrath?
- (d) Consider for a moment the fact that you, if you are a professing believer in Jesus Christ and trusting in His finished work on the cross, will not face God’s wrath on the Day of Judgment. What emotions does this fact induce in you? How does this fact influence the way you live your life? Write down your thoughts in a new psalm, a song, a poem, or verse and be ready to share this with your class. Before you think, “I could never do that!” consider how encouraged you will be as you listen to what others have written and ask yourself, “Why would I not want to give this public praise to God and in so doing encourage my fellow believers?”
- (e) **Family: Read Romans 5:9-11.** Remind your family what “justified” means (to be legally declared righteous/not guilty). Then ask, “What does it mean to be “saved?” Ask for examples of ways we use the word in everyday language: To save money (as in store up), to save money (as in buy something on sale), to save someone from drowning, to save the day, to save a document on a computer, for a pitcher to save a baseball game, to save one’s breath, etc. Then try to explain that each of these expressions means that we are stopping something from happening: not spending money, not drowning, not squandering the day, not loosing your work on a computer, etc. Now ask, “what does Paul mean when he says that being declared not guilty of our sin (i.e. being justified) “saves” us from the wrath of God?” and explain that God will stop His wrath from being placed on believers because He placed it on His Son, Jesus, on the cross.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 5:9-11.** What is the relationship between v. 9 & v. 10 (i.e. is a new thought being introduced, is Paul restating v. 9 in v. 10, both, something else altogether)? Is Paul saying in v. 10 that we are enemies with God, God is enemies with us, or both? How do you know, and what have you learned in Romans so far to back up your conclusion? From other passages?
- (b) What does the word “reconciled” mean? Why do enemies need reconciled? How were God’s enemies reconciled? In what way does Jesus’ death on the cross provide reconciliation for us (cf. Rom. 8:31-32)? How are we “saved by his life?”
- (c) Paul again argues from the greater to the lesser here in v. 10. Why does he think being reconciled by Jesus’ death is a greater, or more far reaching, concept than being saved by his life?

(d) *Family*: **Read Romans 5:9-11**. Begin by asking, “What is an enemy?” Write down all of their responses on your white board. Then ask, “Why are we enemies with God?” (again, write down responses), and “Why is God enemies with us?” (and again, write down responses). Then help your family see the truth that God is an enemy of sinners because He is holy and must execute wrath against them (show them Rom. 1:18, 2:5), and that we are enemies of God because we are idolaters, have turned away from Him and His truth, and are opposed to Him (show them Romans 1:21-23 & 8:7). Then teach them from Rom. 5:10 the wonderful truth that we have been reconciled (made friends) with God through the finished work of Jesus!

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:9-11, 4:25, & 8:33-34**. What does it mean to be “saved by Jesus’ life?” Is Paul referring to His life on earth or His current life? How do you know? Why was both His death and life necessary for our reconciliation and salvation?

(b) What tense is “will be saved” and why is this important? Is Paul saying that you are not already saved if you are a professing believer? Not completely saved? Is there some amount of work left to be done in order to be saved?

(c) What are the ramifications in your own life of the fact that you will be saved by Jesus’ life (i.e. His resurrection and exaltation and His current ministry of intercession on our behalf)? How should this affect your prayer life? Your ministry? Your obedience to His word? The way you parent? The way you suffer? The way you worship?

(d) *Family*: **Read Rom. 5:9-11**. Point out that Paul says that since we have been justified by Christ’s blood (i.e. legally declared righteous) then there is absolutely no doubt that on the Day of Judgment we will be saved from God’s wrath. When Jesus died on the cross to provide our justification, God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand as vindication (proof) that God accepted Christ’s work and that it accomplished what was intended: Salvation (from God’s wrath by being granted life in God’s courtroom) for all who will repent of their sins and believe on Jesus. Help them understand the concept of “have been saved, being saved, and will be saved.” (Those who repent and believe have been [past] saved, we live life being sanctified [present], and we will be [future] saved on the Day of Judgment from God’s wrath).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:9-11**. What significance is the “more than that” statement that begins v. 11? What word/theme do you find in v. 11 that you have already seen in 5:1-11, and how does Paul’s usage of it in v. 11 inform the connection between v. 11 and earlier verses?

(b) Remember that we said the Greek word translated “rejoice/boast” (depending on your translation) carries both the idea of joy and confidence. Write down at least 5 ways that you can express confidence in God based on His work in Christ to reconcile you to Himself. Now write down at least 5 ways the joy/rejoicing in God that being reconciled and justified should/will affect your life this week.

(c) Did you know that every week I assign a memory passage (see the very top of this page if you have not noticed it)? Have you been keeping up on memorizing these passages, or have you, like me, gotten behind in memorizing and then gotten out of the habit? If you have not been memorizing each week, begin doing so today (that is what I am doing!)! Spend the rest of today beginning to memorize Romans 6:1-5, and continue doing so over the weekend. This way you will be caught up, and before you know it, you will have all of Romans 6 memorized!

(d) *Family*: Lead your family through (b) & (c, if necessary) above.

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Reconciled!