

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 11, 2012

Passage: Romans 2:6-11

Memory Passage: Romans 8:7-8

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom 2:6-11 & Rom. 15.** A couple of sermons ago I illustrated a chiasm from Rom. 1:21-28. As a reminder, a chiasm is a literary form in which words or concepts are repeated in reverse order. This device derives its name from the letter X (Greek: Chi) because, when written, the first statements are indented to the center, and when they are stated in reverse order the indents are removed so each repetition vertically aligns with its initial statement, thus resembling the left side of the letter X. Identify the chiasm in 2:6-11. Is the central idea found in the middle, where the repeated statements are back-to-back, at the beginning, or at the end?

(b) Examine our verses' context: What is the connection of 6-11 to what has preceded? To what follows? About whom is Paul speaking? What is the main point of verses 6-11? What questions do you have about verses 6-11?

(c) What truth made the strongest impression as you read Romans 15? What did you recognize during this reading that you did not see during the other readings of chapter 15 during the last several weeks?

(d) *Family: Read Rom. 2:6-11.* Use your white board to outline this text showing the chiasm as follows:

- A. God will judge everyone according to his/her works (v. 6).
- B. Eternal life will be given to those who do good (v. 7).
- C. Wrath & fury will be given to those who do evil (v. 8).
- C'. Tribulation and distress will be given to those who do evil (v. 9).
- B' Glory & honor & peace will be given to those who do good (v. 10).
- A' God judges impartially (v. 11).

Then teach your family the way in which this passage teaches the main point: God, Who judges men & women according to their works, is an impartial Judge.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 34:11, Ps. 62:12, Prov. 24:12, Hos. 12:2, Jer. 17:10, 25:14, 32:19 & Ez. 33:20.** What do you learn from these verses about the basis upon which men & women will be/were judged? Does Paul's teaching in Romans 2:11-16 agree with, disagree with, or expand this OT teaching?

(b) **Read Matt. 16:27, 1 Cor. 2:10-15, 2 Cor. 5:10, 11:15, 2 Tim. 4:14, 1 Pet. 1:17, & Rev. 2:23.** What do you learn from these verses about the basis upon which men & women will be judged? Does Paul's teaching in Romans 2:11-16 agree with, disagree with, or expand this NT teaching?

(c) As you consider the truth that God judges men & women according to their works, how do you think your works will be judged on that Day? Are there some of your works that will be rewarded (judged positively) and some burned (judged negatively), and what is the difference between those works (i.e. on what basis will some works be rewarded & some not)?

(d) *Family: Read Matt. 25:31-46.* As you read this passage, have your family draw pictures of the scene described. Then have them keep drawing and explain the passage, pointing out that it is people being judged (v. 32) not sheep and goats (note the "as a shepherd" language), and emphasizing the "works" that each of the people did or did not do, as well as what Jesus thought about them. Then **Read Rom. 2:6-11** and show that this is the same thing Paul is teaching. Entertain any questions your family might have, and then show them that Paul's point in Rom. 1:18-3:20 is to show that all men and women, whether Jew or Gentile, are sinners and incapable of keeping the law perfectly or doing good works, so all men & women are in need of the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ, who kept the law perfectly on our behalf and died on the cross so that all who repent of their sin and believe on Him will have His perfect works credited to them.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 2:6-11 & Rom. 16.** What are the good works that are done according to vs. 7 & 10? What reward will be given for those who do good works? What role does patience have in the life of those involved in good work? What is the relationship between what this person does and what this person receives?

(b) What does it mean to seek for glory? For honor? For immortality? Is Paul referring to specific activities, specific motives or both? In what ways does your life reflect this kind of seeking? In what ways can you adjust your priorities, mindset, and activities to seek after the things that will result in eternal life (remember to answer this as a gospel-centered believer!)?

(c) Does Paul's teaching in these verses imply that one can earn eternal life by seeking these activities? Why or why not?

(d) *Family*: **Read Luke 8:4-15**. As you read, stop after v. 8 and ask your family what they think this parable means. After the discussion, continue reading Jesus' explanation and make sure everyone understands the parable. Especially draw attention to the fact that the seed is the word of God, and that it is the word that, being received and obeyed, produces the fruit. Also draw attention to the passive nature of fruit bearing, and that as we bear fruit we are to be patient. **Then Read Rom. 2:7 & 10** and focus on the good works (fruit) patiently accomplished and the reward of eternal life. Remind them of the works that you studied last night from Matt. 25 and remind them that good works are a product of Christ working in us.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 2:6-11 and Rom. 1**. What are the works of ones who do evil? What rewards will be given to those who do evil works? What connections do you see between vs. 8-9 & 1:18? How does 1:18 help you understand the people in 2:8-9? Why does Paul mention that judgment comes to the Jew first?

(b) In what ways does your life resemble the life described in 2:8-9? Think of the activities in which you have been involved during the last 30 days and the motives that drove you. Do they most resemble 2: 7 & 10 or 2:8-9? When your life more resembled 2:8-9, what was your normal response (repentance, joy, indifference, satisfaction, sorrow, etc.)? What does this tell you about your spiritual state (Do you sense a warning? A need for salvation? Is the Lord disciplining you, His child, or do you sense His current condemnation?)?

(c) *Family*: Prior to your study gather 4 seeds, 4 glass containers, and the 4 types of ground (path [hard, compacted dirt], rock, thorns, good soil) described in last night's study of Luke 8: 4-8. Use them as an object lesson to find out what your family remembers from last nights study of Luke 8. Ask them what the seed represented, who the sower was, what type of response each soil represented, etc. Be ready to fill in the details they may forget. Then **Read Rom. 1:18 & 2:8-9** and explain how these passages tie in to the parable from Luke 8, the destination of the person whose life is marked by evil works (fruit), and that those who are true believers in Jesus will be involved in the good works Christ accomplished on our behalf.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 3:20, 27-28, 4:1-8, Gal. 2:16 & Eph. 2:8-9**. What do you learn about how one is justified in these passages? What is the relationship between works and justification? Between justification and faith? Between works and faith?

(b) How do you reconcile this teaching (i.e. no one can be justified by works) with Paul's claim in Rom. 2:6-7 (that those who do good work will be rewarded with eternal life)? Is he contradicting himself? If not, why not, and what purpose does 2:6-11 have in developing Paul's summary statement in 3:9 & 19-20?

(c) Would it be possible for a person to earn salvation outside of Christ's sacrifice being applied to them if they could perfectly keep the law so that all of their works were good? Why or why not?

(d) *Family*: In an effort to hammer home the idea of our good works being supplied by Christ through His gospel, teach your family from **Eph. 2:8-10 & Gal. 2:20**. Show the connection between our good works being a result of our salvation, planned out before our salvation for the purpose of us walking in them, and Christ living His life in us as believers.

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The Impartial Judge