

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 26, 2013

Passage: Romans 8:1-4

Memory Passage: Romans 6:22-23

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Romans 8:1-4.** Chapter 8 begins with a discussion of the believer's life in the Spirit. What do you notice that is different about the language and tone beginning in 8:1 compared to the language and tone used in 7:7-25? To what does the "therefore" found in 8:1 refer (you should interact with 7:6 as well as 7:24-25a)?

(b) How does "condemnation" in 8:1 relate to the condemnation Paul speaks about in 5:16 & 18 (the only other places in the NT that this particular Greek word translated "condemnation" occur)? Why is the word "now" important?

(c) Determine the function of vs. 2-4 in relation to the statement made in verse 1 (i.e. outline how the "for," "for," and "in order that" that begin verses 2-4 relate to verse 1).

(d) *Family: Read Romans 8:1-4.* Ask, "What is different about these verses compared to what we have been reading in chapter 7?" Lead your family to recognize the joyful, powerful, victorious tone found in chapter 8. Then ask, "What does 'condemnation' mean?" (to judge someone guilty and worthy of punishment) Then lead your family through **Romans 5:15-18** to remind them about the condemnation (vs. 16, 18) brought on by Adam's work compared to the justification (legal declaration of righteousness) and life brought on by Christ's work. Now **Re-read Romans 8:1** to experience the joy of Paul's statement, and tell your family that we will be looking this week at both how this was accomplished and its result in our lives.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 8:1-4.** Verse 2 begins the explanation/ground for the statement made in v. 1. To what does "the law" refer in its 2 occurrences in v. 2 (i.e. is it still the Mosaic Law or a principle)? How do you know? Explain what Paul means by "the law of the Spirit of life" (your answer will depend on how you answered the previous question)?

(b) What is "the law of sin and (the law of) death" (your answer will depend on how you answered question "a" above), and why is it such good news to be free from it?

(c) Contemplate & write down why the phrase, "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" is so important in the following situations: (1) when you sin, (2) when you are depressed, (3) when you feel/are told that you are unworthy, (4) when you have been hurt or ridiculed by someone, (5) when you will not forgive yourself for something you have done, (6) when you find it difficult to pray.

(d) *Family: Read Romans 8:1.* Lead your family through a discussion of the importance of knowing and believing that believers suffer no condemnation from God by leading them through (c) above. You may also come up with more situations that more directly apply to your family and their struggles.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 8:1-4.** Verse 3 explains how you have been set free from "the law of sin and (the law of) death." To what does "flesh" refer in its first occurrence in v. 3, and how did it "weaken" the law? What is it that the weakened law, could not "do"?

(b) Who did the "sending" of Christ? Why is the phrase, "in the likeness of" important with regard to Jesus' incarnation? In what ways was Jesus "in the likeness of sinful flesh" (the second use of "flesh" in v. 3)?

(c) What was the second characteristic of God's sending of His Son and what does it mean (i.e. does the "for sin" mean with regard to sin, for the purpose of sin, with reference to sin, for sin's benefit, for sin's demise, etc.)?

(d) To what does "in the flesh" refer (the 3rd use of "flesh" in v. 3)? Who did the condemning of sin, and how did it lead to your freedom? Summarize the teaching of vs. 1-3 in one sentence.

(e) *Family: Read Rom. 8:1-4.* Explain that first "flesh" in v. 3 refers to the unregenerate person with all his/her weaknesses. Then ask someone to **Read Romans 7:12** to remind everyone of the character of the law. Then ask, "How was the law weakened by the flesh?" Use this illustration (adapted from one used by Martin Luther) to help explain: There once was a very sick man who was close to death. He wanted to drink strawberry smoothies because he foolishly thought that drinking them would restore his health. When the doctor said, "It is impossible for strawberry smoothies to cure you; they will only make you worse," he was not condemning the strawberry smoothies, only the man's foolish trust in them as healing agents. The doctor knew that a different medicine was needed to restore the man to health so he could enjoy his smoothies for many more years. It is the same way for the unregenerate person. Their need is for a medicine other than the law to restore their spiritual health because the law is weakened by the flesh with regard to freeing them from the power and bondage of sin. The law, which is holy, righteous, and good, is weakened in the area of freeing the flesh from the bondage of sin.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Rom. 8:1-4.** What does the phrase, “in order that” which begins v. 4 tell us about the relationship between v. 4 & v. 3 (I know you’ve answered this already, but in case you skipped over that little assignment [Day 1 (c)], consider it here ☺)?
- (b) To what does “the law” refer in v. 4, and what is its “righteous requirement?”
- (c) Two ways of living are mentioned at the end of v. 4. What are these 2 ways? Describe each of them in as much detail as you can, giving not only a definition but also giving examples of each.
- (d) How do the results of God sending His Son (i.e. “freedom from the law of sin and (the law of) death” and “now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus”) impact the entire concept of “walking by the Spirit?” Be specific here so you don’t miss the force of Paul’s teaching in 8:1-4 and the depth of its application for your life.
- (e) *Family: Read Rom. 8:1-4.* Ask, “What are the 2 ways to walk/live that Paul mentions at the end of v. 4?” Have one of your family members come to the white board write the word “Walk” in the center at the top, and then under that make two columns: “By the Spirit” & “By the Flesh.” Then spend the rest of this lesson coming up with characteristics of each walk and writing them in the appropriate column. You can direct your family to read Gal. 5: 16-26 for help. Discuss each characteristic as it is identified and written on the white board, and give examples from life.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Rom. 8:1-4.** There are several ways v. 4 might be interpreted: Paul is saying (1) because of Christ’s work on the cross believers now have the ability, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, to obey the law (the righteous requirement) and therefore fulfill it, (2) Jesus’ life and cross-work completely obeyed the law (the righteous requirement) and when we as believers obey by walking through the indwelling Holy Spirit we give evidence that we are beneficiaries of His grace, (3) the righteous requirement of the law is righteousness, and since believers receive Christ’s righteousness when we are saved then the requirement is fulfilled in us at that time, (4) Jesus endured both death and the wrath of God on our behalf (the righteous requirement of the law if it is broken) and we as believers prove he has endured these on our behalf when we walk according to the Spirit. Which do you think is correct, or is there another possible interpretation, and why (give evidence from the context of Romans 1-8:4).
- (b) Spend a few moments contemplating the last week of your life and write down all the instance you can recall in which you (1) had the chance to do good for/to someone (1 Thess. 5:15, et. al.), (2) had the opportunity to witness the gospel to someone (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Pet. 3:14; et. al.), (3) were faced with the opportunity to mortify sin (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; et. al.), (4) were given the opportunity to exercise justice (Mal. 6:8), (5) blamed your sin on someone/something else (James 1:13-16), or (6) love someone (Rom. 13:8-10 et. al.). Now consider how you responded to each situation, and whether your response reflected that you were walking according to the flesh or according to the Spirit. Spend time in prayer repenting where needed and thanking God for grace for each of these situations.
- (c) *Family:* Lead your family through (b) above.

DATE: May 26, 2013**PASSAGE: Romans 8:1-4*****No Condemnation In Christ!***

In Romans 8:1-4 Paul answers 4 questions about his promise that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (v. 1).