

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?

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ROMANS 1:1 - 3:20

Introduction

1. God _____

2. _____ Moralizers

3. _____ Boasters

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. If you could snap your fingers and instantly solve one of the world's problems what would you change?
2. Watch the 7:47 minute Bible Project video on Romans 1-4. Make a list of five things you learned about the background of this epistle. Why is it valuable to discover the background of any Bible book you're reading?
3. Read Romans 1:1-3, 15-17. What do you learn about the gospel in these verses? Why might a Christ follower be inclined to feel "ashamed of the gospel" (1:16)? Why shouldn't a Christ follower feel ashamed of the gospel?
4. God Deniers. Read Romans 1:18-22. Why might people's sinfulness prompt them to suppress the truth about God? (Hint: Remember the Aldous Huxley illustration.) What's the difference between a philosophical atheist and a practical atheist (per the sermon)?
5. Read Romans 1:24-27. Why do you think Paul begins his description of humanity's downward spiral into sin with the example of sexual impurity? Read Romans 1:28-32. Which three of the sins in these verses do you think are most prevalent in our culture today?
6. Reread Romans 1:18. How does God's wrath differ from the typical person's anger? What is meant by "God gave them over" (see vv. 24, 26, 28), and how would that response serve as punishment, in this world, for sin? Read II Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:11-15 and Romans 6:23. How else will sin be punished? What is your response to these verses?
7. Self-Righteous Moralizers. Read Romans 2:1-3. What is Sigmund Freud's theory of "projection" (per the sermon)? Why do human beings do that? Describe two or three things that you tend to judge others for-- but are guilty of yourself?
8. Religious Boasters. Read Romans 2:17-25. What specific aspects of their religion does Paul accuse the Jews of being prideful about? What are some examples of spiritual pride among contemporary religious people? What would Paul say to such people today (based especially on vv.21-23, 25)?
9. Read Romans 3:10-20. What are the repeating expressions in this passage? Why do you think Paul was so hard-hitting about sin in these verses?
10. What are three things you learned about your own sin in this sermon/study?

PRAYER PROMPT: As you studied this passage, some of your sin probably came to mind. Take some time in prayer to confess your sin. Spend a minute in silence, allowing each person to ask God what sin they need to confess. Then, go around the circle and each person finish pray a prayer that starts with, "God, I am sorry. Please forgive me for..." At the end, the leader can read Psalm 103:8-12 out loud over the group to close the time of prayer.