

Weekend Message: *Hi Def GRACE* **Romans 3:19-31**

Pray each day, before you ***Dive In*** to God's word, that God the Holy Spirit, will be the teacher of your mind and heart. Pray for the ***friends*** in your Life Team to be faithful to study and receive God's truth for themselves today.

Life Team Ice Breaker – (see Last Page)

DAY ONE

Some have called this the greatest paragraph written in the history of mankind. ALL the initiative in our relationship with God has always been from God. Grace is God stooping, God coming to the rescue and God giving Himself generously IN and THROUGH Jesus Christ. It is absolutely free and utterly undeserved. Any presentation of the gospel that weakens the absolute truth of these three factors is NOT the good news of the Bible. The concepts are so profound that Paul can't find a single word or concept to capture them. He has to reference the law courts, the slave market and the temple to find the proper explanation for what God has done.

1. Read Romans 3:19 – 31. What is the shift in emphasis?
2. What are some of the purposes of God's law? Vs 19-20
3. In vs. 21-31, find as many ways as you can that illustrate that there truly is "no difference" between people.

DAY TWO

4. Describe when you first realized the price that God paid to offer you forgiveness of sin.
5. Vs. 24 says we "are justified freely by His grace." What day-to-day impact does this have on you?
6. What do the terms "justified" and "redemption" mean? What do they mean to you personally? Vs. 24

DAY THREE

7. How does Jesus' death in your place, prove that God is both just and merciful? Vs. 26

8. Why does God's way of righteousness make it impossible for anyone to boast about himself?
Vs. 27-28
9. Are you ever tempted to feel superior to unbelievers or to Christians who live "less righteously" than you? How does 3:27-30 affect your attitudes?

DAY FOUR

10. How would you communicate the concept of undeserved grace to someone who is hung up with the idea of doing good works to earn their way to heaven? Can you use your life experience as part of your explanation?

11. Vs. 25 What do you think it means that God left unpunished (passed over) the sins previously committed?

What does this tell you about God? ...About the gospel (good news)? ...About Jesus the Messiah?

DAY FIVE

12. If we in the church understand our own sinfulness and the price God has paid for our forgiveness, what affect should this have on the following attitudes (choose one and elaborate):
- Superiority toward the people in our community (vs. 27)
 - Preoccupation with our own efforts to keep the law (vs. 28)
 - Conflicting attitudes between "factions" in a church (vs. 29-30)
 - Believing we can ignore the law of God (or community) and do whatever we want (vs. 31)
13. What is something that you are grateful to God for in your life? How would you like to express this?

What are you and/or your Life Team doing to serve outside your church to influence the community for Christ? Is there something new or different you believe god is calling you to do?

Is there a person or a group in the church to whom you need to extend the grace that God has extended to you? Pray with your Life Team for the courage and faith to do this.

Vocabulary Help

"Expiation" When sin is "expiated" guilt is removed.

"Propitiation" When sin is "propitiated" God's justice/wrath is satisfied.

"Atonement" is rooted in the Temple sacrifice – atoned for means covered by proper payment.

"Justification" is from the Law Courts - justified means without guilt or acquitted.

"Redemption" is from the slave market – redeemed means purchased back from slavery.

ICEBREAKERS – Don't feel you have to use them all. Using at least one helps people get comfortable with each other and opens them up to sharing.

- Think about the largest financial debt you've ever had. Suppose you got a note from your creditor erasing that debt because someone had paid it in full. What would you say and do? How would that change your approach to life?
- What is the most dramatic rescue you have ever been involved in or witnessed (on TV or in person)?
- Have you ever taken the heat for something you didn't do? Did anybody ever make sacrifices for you so that you could ever have a better life? Tell the story briefly.