

Week One - Daily Devotionals

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.

DAY ONE

This is Paul's introduction to the Roman Christians, many who know of him, but who have never met him. This letter is both personal and very theological. He wants the Romans to know whose gospel (good news) he preaches and the kind of life to which this gospel should lead. He is writing to a mixed community of Jewish and gentile Christians, with great respect for both. Such formal introductions were common in ancient letters, but not usually so complex and theological. Don't be afraid of this letter – Paul (and CVC) will put the most important and exciting truths in history right on the bottom shelf where everyone can reach them and you can also soar through the spiritual and intellectual stratosphere with Romans, too.

- 1) How does Paul identify himself? Vs.1
....His message? Vs. 2-4
- 2) Who is the message about and why does it seem important?
- 3) What errors or misunderstandings about Jesus might be answered or corrected from vs. 2-4?
- 4) Vs. 5 "Obedience that comes from faith."
 - a. Why did Paul need grace and apostleship to extend this call to others?
 - b. Can faith, itself, be an act of obedience? How?
 - c. Why does true faith always lead to obedience?
 - d. What actions, decisions and priorities does this call to faith imply for YOUR life?

DAY TWO

- 1) Paul uses the word "call" repeatedly, first as it relates to himself (vs.1-5) and then as it relates to the Romans (vs. 6-7). What have you been called out from/ set apart from? What have you been called to be and do? How is it similar or different from God's call on Paul?

Key Question: **Is your spiritual identity your primary identity in life?** What are some of the ways in which people in your life would identify you (your roles, your interests, what you talk most about)?

- 2) Paul's letter to the Romans conveys a sense of urgency. Think of a time when someone came to you with a real sense of urgency. How did you respond to their news or their request?
- 3) What are some of the things Paul writes to show his sense of urgency? (v. 9-11, 15-16)

What are some of the behaviors in your life that show you are urgent about the message of Jesus Christ?

DAY THREE

- 1) How did Paul feel about the people in the church of Rome, whom he hoped to meet soon? What's he thank God for? What does Paul pray for? Why did he want to go there? (Vs. 6-15)
- 2) How did you feel about your church (or others you have joined) BEFORE you got there or got involved in the community of believers?

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- 3) In vs. 12 mentions his hope for mutual encouragement. How do you show your feelings for, or commitment to, other followers of Christ?

DAY FOUR

What kind of a person does Paul seem to be? (VS. 1-17) What character qualities does he possess? Are there ways in which you would like to become more like him? What would you and God have to do for such growth to take place? (be specific)

Why is Paul unashamed of the gospel and so eager to preach it in Rome, a very sophisticated urban setting and in a very foreign place like Spain (which was the rugged frontier then)? (VS. 15-17)

Do you ever feel or act ashamed of the gospel? You're probably not alone. Otherwise, why would Paul have even mentioned this issue? What would make us Unashamed?

DAY FIVE

- 1) Vs. 17 refers to a righteousness from God the "by faith from first to last" (literally, "from faith to faith"). What do you think that means?

What is one way that you intend to act in "the obedience that comes from faith" this week? How will it advance your calling in life?

Would ***Third Saturday!*** help you to live out your calling, mutually encourage the faith of other Christians or grow in your confidence in the power of the gospel? If so, we'll see you at the Minden campus this Saturday at 8:30 AM.. If not, then list other ways that you might take a ***NEXT STEP*** with regard to these challenges.

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