

Weekend Message: *Bait & Switch* Romans 1: 18-32

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

This passage is crucial background for the incredible presentation of the gospel that is to come. Don't be afraid to wrestle with the realities of sin. Just because God is LOVE and grace is amazing doesn't mean that we don't need to face the realities of sin's power and devastation in the world. Pray that you will be able to embrace this topic in the sense that you will take seriously the struggle against sin. Idolatry is a daily temptation for EVERY human being and that includes Christians. The stakes are high and the gospel is powerful!

1. What comes to your mind when you think of "the wrath of God?"
2. Why is the wrath of God being revealed? (vs. 18-23)
3. What seems to be the difference between the wrath of God and the anger of people? Does God's wrath contradict His nature as a loving God?

DAY TWO

4. Think about some of your experiences with creation. What have these revealed to you about God?
5. Are these revelations from nature universally available to all people?
6. Why are people without excuse? (vs. 18-20) What is it they are responsible for?
7. Vs. 21 says that the people described here "knew God." What is the danger of knowing God, but failing to act on that knowledge? (21-23)
8. Is this knowledge enough to save people? Is it enough to make them responsible to worship God? Why/Why not?

DAY THREE

9. What did people do to suppress the truth about God? Do you think our culture changed much since this was written? Why/why not?

10. What are examples of how people do one of the following today:

- Fail to give God glory
- Refuse to give thanks to God
- Grow futile (empty, vain) in their thinking
- Claim to be wise when they are fools
- Worship idols and images rather than God

11. How should we respond to people (believers and non-believers) who are struggling with sin?

12. Have you ever known parents who have made the heartbreaking decision to let their teenaged child go to follow a path that is dangerous or even self-destructive? Recollect the details and describe how you view that decision.

13. Do you know anyone in your church who is going through this now? How could you and/or your Life Team uphold them and serve them?

DAY FOUR

14. In 1:24, what is the therefore there for? What is Paul referring us back to?

15. Romans 1: 24-32 uses the phrase "God gave them over" three times. To what did God give them over? Why?

16. Describe, in your own words, the three downward spirals that are pictured here in the lives of those who are running from God.

17. Vs. 29-30 What a list of sins! What does the variety of this list suggest to you about the nature of sin?

18. Does anything in vs. 18-32 make you uneasy?

19. Why do these people deserve spiritual death?

DAY FIVE

20. Which sin in the downward spiral Paul described, do you most need to work on resisting? How is that sin a result of futile thinking? (vs. 21)

21. How have you seen the consequences of sin affect your life and/or the lives of those around you? What have you learned from the experience?

22. What do you know about God and life with Him that would keep you out of this downward spiral?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 – How does this promise from God apply to your answer above?

23. If a person wants to understand the gospel and win the struggle over sin, what do vs. 18, 21 and 28 tell us we need to do?

24. In three sentences, what is the overall message of Romans 1: 18-32?

BONUS CHALLENGE

How should Christians view those who struggle with homosexuality? Why has the church, in general, not been effective in reaching out to this group of people? What can we do to show our love and concern for homosexual individuals?

ICEBREAKERS

1) As a child, what was the most usual method of discipline for bad behavior that you received? How about the most Unusual?

2) What was your most embarrassing moment growing up?

Not getting to the rest room on time? Receiving a traffic citation?

Hosting a wild party when my parents came home unexpectedly?

Getting caught with insufficient clothing?

Forgetting someone's birthday or another special event? Other