

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of November 19th, 2006

Romans 1:7; Introducing Romans

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

As we transition from our series in Jeremiah to Romans, we see some apparent similarities. What was life like for the believing community in Rome? No doubt, it was not easy. The rule of Rome made life for these early Christians challenging and precarious. Allegiance to Christ was seen by Rome as a potential threat just as it is in many parts of the world today.

The impact of Romans throughout history is startling. Great revivals in church history have been born by a study of Romans. Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Wesley all trace their spiritual renewals to a reading of Romans. May God use this letter of Paul's to impact our lives just as he has used it throughout history to build up his church.

Blessings,

Scott

These small-group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Romans** – What do you know about Paul's letter to the church at Rome? Is there a verse or passage that comes to your mind? What impressions do you have of this New Testament book?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Read Romans 1:1-17

1. What stands out to you in Paul's opening remarks?
2. Some suggest that if you boil the entire book of Romans down to one or two verses, you would end up with Romans 1:16-17. What does Paul seem to be saying in these two very packed verses?
3. The word "gospel" means good news. What is the good news about the gospel according to Paul?
4. Verse 7 introduces us to the recipients of Paul's letter. What does Paul say about these recipients?
5. Of all the things Paul could have said to describe the Roman believers, why did he choose to describe them as "loved" and "called."
6. In what ways were they loved?
7. What does it mean to that we are "called to be saints?"
8. The term "called" comes from the same word from which we get the word "vocation." Our culture is very career oriented. People are often introduced as doctors, teachers, etc. How does our calling as saints transcend our career calling?
9. Grace was a word typically used as a greeting by Greek speaking gentiles, while peace was a common greeting among Aramaic speaking Jews. Why do you think Paul used both greetings?

Getting Personal:

- Grace is a major theme in Paul's letters. He had experienced it at a deep level in his life. One of the questions we should ask as we read Paul is, do we experience God's grace at the deep level Paul did? Please read and discuss the following quote: "*Many years ago, I was driven to the conclusion that the two major causes of most emotional problems among evangelical Christians are these: the failure to understand, receive, and live out of God's unconditional grace and forgiveness; and the failure to give out that unconditional love, forgiveness and grace to other people....*" David Seamands

Putting it into Practice:

- Share one way you would like to apply this week's lesson during the coming week.