

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of January 14th, 2007

Romans 1:16; Powerful Good News

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

Perspective changes everything. It affects our gratitude, our hope, and it certainly impacts the way we view the gospel of Christ. Just how good is this news about Jesus and his work on our behalf? Well, it depends greatly on how clearly we see things. I have often said that the good news is only as good as the bad news is bad.

Just how bad is the bad news? Well, without Christ we have a hopeless future. We are destined to life without God forever. No exceptions. The bad news extends to every human being on this planet, save one. Jesus is the great exception. The one who came from heaven and appeared as a man has changed everything. He has restored our fortunes. And now we have an inheritance that Paul said "can never perish, spoil or fade." That's powerful good news!

Blessings,

Scott

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

Discussion Starters:

- **Good News, Bad News** – When people share good news/bad news with you, which do you like to hear first? Why?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Please read Romans 3:21-23; Romans 6:23.

1. In Romans 3 & 6, Paul is positioning the good news right next to the bad news. Apart from Christ, how bad is the bad news?
2. In our culture, the bad news about sin is not politically correct. What do people find so objectionable about this aspect of the gospel?
3. Why is it that the good news can only be understood when you place it alongside the bad news, as Paul does in Romans?
4. Please read Romans 1:16-17. In your own words, what does Paul say about the gospel?
5. Read the following quote and ask whether group members agree or disagree: *"We have so persistently dissembled the power of the Gospel... that it is pardonable if those who judge of it by us should doubt whether it is anything more efficacious and inspiring than the pathetic guesses which adorn the writings of philosophy."* Canon B.F. Westcott, *The Gospel of the Resurrection*
6. Read out loud the way the Message translation reads: *It's news I'm most proud to proclaim, this extraordinary Message of God's powerful plan to rescue everyone who trusts him, starting with Jews and then right on to everyone else!* Romans 1:16
7. Put yourself in Paul's shoes. How would you describe his emotions about the gospel? Why was he so enthusiastic about it? (Leader's note: encourage group members to consider Paul's personal experience with the gospel).
8. How would you describe the power that Paul attributes to the gospel? (Leader's note: You might encourage group members to consider its potency, its reach, its sustainability, etc.)
9. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and Revelations 21:1-4 show some powerful events yet to come, but which are still completely reliant on Jesus' death and resurrection. What do we have to look forward to?

Putting it Into Practice:

Leaders Note: If your group is large you might want to consider breaking the group into pairs or small groups to answer the next two questions.

1. Tonight we have looked at Paul's enthusiasm for the gospel of Jesus Christ. What do you want to remember about the gospel during the coming week?
2. Close in prayer, asking God to use his gospel in a powerful way in our lives and the lives of those we interact with.