



Growth Group Discussion Questions

2. Unafraid to tell the gospel

Read Romans 1:14-18

Introduction

1. In verse 14-15 Paul says he is 'under obligation' or 'indebted' to everyone to preach the gospel. **Discuss what Paul means by this and what this means for NCC?**
2. *The gospel is the saving power of God. Discuss the different ways in which we can be tempted to be ashamed of the gospel.*
3. **How is the gospel the 'saving power of God'? Hint: see Ephesians 1:18-20**
4. The gospel saves those who believe it. **Who does the gospel save according to verse 16-17?**
5. **What would you say to someone who says, "I'm saved by faith but now I must work hard to stay saved?" using verse 16-17?**
6. **Why does God choose faith as the way for us to be saved? Hint: see Ephesians 2:8-9**
7. The gospel reveals God's righteousness. The 'righteousness of God' is a major theme in Romans and it means different things. In order to help you think about it, here is a table. Fill in the blanks.

The RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD		
what it is	what it means	what it means for me
a quality	God IS righteous. He is just and hates evil.	
an activity	God DOES what is right. He saves sinners by punishing Jesus in their place thereby saving them without being unjust. By doing this He keeps every promise He has ever made.	
a gift	God GIVES me a Righteousness that is not mine, but comes from Jesus' perfect life and atoning death.	

8. The gospel gives life to those who are under God's wrath. **What are Christians actually saved from? Hint: see verse 18 and Matthew 10:28**
9. **Discuss how we, as individuals, and together as members of NCC can give ourselves to gospel ministry in 2020**

Leaders Notes

1. There are two ways you can be in someone's debt. One way is that you borrow money and therefore you owe them. The other way is if someone gives you something to give to another person. You owe it to that other person to give it to them. You were given something, not for yourself but in order to pass it on. Paul is an apostle of Jesus Christ and he has been entrusted with the gospel to pass it on to other. He owes it to others. The same is true of NCC. We have the glorious truth of God. We owe it to the people of Perth to pass on the gospel to them. God has entrusted us with His gospel. We are debtors to everyone in Perth – to tell them this message of life.
2. We are all very different personalities and what makes one person afraid will not trouble another person. However, at the heart of being ashamed of the gospel is either a lack of belief in the gospel – if we absolutely believed that people are going to Hell, if we didn't doubt the Bible at all – we would have more boldness in telling people the gospel. Alternatively, we are ashamed of the gospel because we value people too much, or reputation too much. In other words, if we valued the gospel of Jesus Christ above everything, we would be unafraid to tell the gospel.
3. The gospel's power can be seen in its effects. Think how it has changed people's lives. Think about how, forever and forever, wicked sinful people will live happily in God's Holy presence forever... how did that happen? How did we get to enter glory? Only the power of the gospel can take such weak things like us and promote us to the highest places in heaven.
4. The gospel only saves those who believe – that is, those who completely rely on it and trust it.
5. Verse 17 says 'from faith for faith' or 'faith into faith'. It simply means 'faith all the way'. The same faith in the gospel that saves us is the same faith that grows us. We never move on from trusting and believing in the gospel.
6. God chose the 'weakness' of faith because it shows that He does all the heavy lifting. He does all the hard work. We only have to trust in what He has done for us. This is good news because it means even the weakest of us can be saved. It's not up to us. How unfair if only strong people got saved. However, God chose it this way also so that no one can boast. The fact that all we have to do (and all we can do) is believe, means God gets all the glory. And rightly so.
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The RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD		
what it is	what it means	what it means for me
a quality	God IS righteous. He is just and hates evil.	He is rightfully angry with me and He must punish me.
an activity	God DOES what is right. He saves sinners by punishing Jesus in their place thereby saving them without being unjust. By doing this He keeps every promise He has ever made.	God saves me even though I deserve to be punished – and at the same time God remains righteous.
a gift	God GIVES me a Righteousness that is not mine, but comes from Jesus' perfect life and atoning death.	I am fully justified by God: i.e. God sees me as being as righteous as Jesus.

8. Verse 18 is our big trouble. Unless we understand that our biggest problem in all the universe is not sickness, or death, or suffering, or loneliness, or poverty or the Devil... our biggest problem

is a righteous God. We are all under His wrath. This is why the gospel is such amazingly good news. It gives life to those who are under God's wrath and makes them acceptable to Him.

9. Up to the Growth Group.