

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

## *Romans*

A New Life

### Lesson #1: Good News from God

#### INTRODUCTION

What is our immediate response to good news?

#### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

##### Read Romans 1:1-17

*Note: Paul probably wrote this letter from Corinth over the course of three months, at the end of his third missionary journey. The Roman church was probably started by Roman Jews who were converted on the Day of Pentecost. Gentiles were generally considered a person of a non-Jewish nation or of a non-Jewish faith. Gentile Christians in Rome probably came from other missionaries besides Paul. The church membership was predominately Gentile. The book of Romans presents the doctrine of justification by faith and its ramifications.*

1. How does Paul describe himself? **Act 9:5-15; 22:14-15; 1 Cor 9:1**
2. What is the significance of Jesus' two "bloodlines" – human and spiritual? What is the evidence of each? Vv 3-4 (see article)
3. Paul gives a summary of the gospel for which he had been set apart. What do we learn about the gospel? vv. 1-5
4. Who is Paul specifically called to reach?

*Note: The called are those who have been summoned by God to salvation. Saints are "holy ones" or "set apart ones". In the New Testament all believers are "saints" because they are by position holy and set apart. Phil 4:21; Col 1:2*

5. What is Paul's attitude toward the Romans? Why do you think he was so encouraged and motivated? vv. 8-13

*Note: v. 14 Greeks were generally considered those who spoke Greek and had adopted the Hellenistic culture as opposed to barbarians who had not. Here Paul probably meant "Gentiles" when referring to Greeks here. Wise people were also considered those who were educated. Faith is not intellectual assent to a series of propositions but surrender to the one who asks us to trust him. To surrender is to obey. Biblical faith is not some mild assent to a collection of ethical maxims but an active commitment of one's life. Obedience is the true measure of a person's faith.<sup>1</sup>*

6. Paul says we can be eager to preach the gospel or be ashamed of it. What might lead us to adopt one attitude or the other? vv. 15-16
7. How have you seen the power of the gospel demonstrated in your live or the lives of others?
8. In what areas do you struggle with faith?

#### APPLICATION

Because he was an apostle ("one who is sent"), Paul felt obligated to preach the gospel to a specific people group. Who are you called to reach?

*Verses 16-17 have long been recognized as the key to the epistle. These two verses should be memorized and the meaning digested. Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee Vol IV, p. 645*

<sup>1</sup> Mounce, R. H. (1995). *Romans* (Vol. 27, pp. 62–63). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.