



Leader's Guide

For September 9, 2007

LESSON 1

Dr. Jerry Nelson

Romans 1:1-17 Paul's Passion and Mission

Key Points

This passage is an introduction to the Book of Romans. The following key points are emphasized in the questions on the following page. As you study and as you lead, listen well to the issues of the group, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and help your group come to some conclusions that will result in a greater love for God, resulting in a greater love for people.

- The gospel of Jesus Christ: parallel of his human and divine nature
- Paul's calling and authority
- Paul's mission
- God's power for salvation
- Our response in receiving his righteousness
- Faith and obedience

There are more questions than you will have time for, so select the questions that will be most helpful to you. It is important to look for issues that lie beneath the surface, like "Where do we struggle believing the truth of the Word when life tempts us to believe otherwise?" Help your group be honest by being honest yourself.

Personal Reflection

- What is the most important truth in this passage?
- How are you going to emphasize this point to your group?
- What do you hope they leave with?

Discussion Questions

1. The Apostle Paul was called and set apart for the gospel of God (1:1). What impact did this have on his confidence in God and the power of the gospel (1:16)?
2. In this passage, God is revealing himself and desire for restored relationship with him. What does he reveal about:
 - The gospel (1:2) *through Jesus*
 - Jesus (1:2-4) *Human nature: through David*
Divine nature: Son of God
 - Salvation (1:16) *the gospel is the power of God for salvation*
 - Righteousness (1:17) *it is by faith*
3. What attributes of God are found in this passage?
His love, sovereignty, power, grace, mercy, righteousness, faithfulness
4. How do these attributes impact your personal relationship with him? Are these theologically and relationally real to you? Why or why not?
5. In 1:8-13, Paul was passionate about his mission, as expressed in the following verses:
 - *1:9 God, whom I serve with my whole heart*
 - *I constantly remember you, pray at all times, long to be with you to encourage your faith, was prevented from seeing you, eager to preach the gospel to you*

What is the source of his motivation? (2 Corinthians 5:14)

6. Paul was a missionary, evangelist, and pastor. “Only when a church had reached the point of sufficient maturity as to be self-producing did the apostle feel he could move on to new fields.”¹ How do we share in the same call for missions, evangelism, and discipleship (spiritual formation)?
7. The Apostle Paul was not ashamed of the gospel (vs. 16). He knew that it has the power to save for those who believe. Do we, like the Apostle Paul, have confidence in the gospel? Do you

think that the gospel is still powerful? Is this power dependent on *our* belief (faith)?

8. The righteousness of God (equivalent to salvation) is personal and relational. What is God's responsibility, and what is ours?²
9. There is a problem with our vertical relationship: God is holy, we are not. God has remedied that through the work of Jesus Christ. What are the greatest barriers to understanding and receiving God's righteousness by faith?
10. When tempted to disbelieve the truth of the gospel, what can we do to cooperate with the Spirit, and in faith believe who God says he is, what he has done, and how we are to live?

¹ *The NIV Application Commentary*, pg. 49

² *The NIV Application Commentary*, pg. 54, 55

