

Good morning ladies,

For those new to this study, whether following on line or joining us at the table, our weeks pretty much follow the same format. There are 10 questions based upon what we've read, to have you look deeper into the passage. Almost without exception the answers to these 10 questions come directly out of the passage we're reading. Don't think you need to go elsewhere for answers. Allow God to speak to you straight from His word. Know that there's no real right or wrong answer, simply the one God wants to provide you each week. You'll also have questions that are more personal. These are for your quiet moments. Perhaps for journaling, but definitely not intended to share with the group. At the very end of each lesson is the opportunity for you to figure out some deeper meaning in each chapter. This year's common question in every single lesson is going to be "Why do you think this chapter is in the bible?" God has a different reason for every single one of us to study Romans this year. Your answer to this question each week will give you insight into what that purpose may be.

This is going to be an amazing study. I can hardly wait to get started. I have just 2 suggestions for our study each week. Come prepared and come expecting good things. God is going to use us and grow us and take us places we can hardly imagine right now.

See you all soon. Love, Renee

So on to our first week's questions

Read Romans 1: 1-7

1. Why do you think Paul identifies himself first as a servant of Christ before calling himself an apostle?

2. How does Paul summarize the gospel in verses 2-6?

3. When you introduce yourself to strangers have you ever included your status in God's kingdom? Why or why not?

Read Romans 1: 8-16

4. How do you suppose it happened that the faith of Roman Jews became world reknown?

5. What lessons do we learn from Paul about the importance of lifting up other believers and how might that inspire you to care for other churches?

6. Paul boldly proclaims " I am not ashamed of the gospel" and claims its power to change lives. What holds you back from being this bold in matters of faith?

Read Romans 1: 17-32

7. What can we learn about God by looking at the world He created and what warning does Paul give us about honoring creation above its Creator?

8. Three times in these verses we read the phrase "God gave them over" What does that suggest about God's willingness to interfere with creation and how is that a model for parenting?

9. Why did God give mankind over to its desires?

10. Where might believers be called to make a stand against indecency? Why?

For personal growth:

This passage describes two groups of Roman people- those who have chosen to follow Jesus and those who chose to follow after their own desires.

This mirrors society today. Paul pretty clearly describes both sides of the fence but nowhere in chapter one does he allow for people to straddle the fence. Either we're for God or we're against Him. How might these verses encourage you to firmly establish yourself in God's kingdom? What fate eventually befalls all who wink at sin? Where are you tempted to ignore or minimize sin because it occurs between two consenting adults?

For the good of the group:

Why do you think this chapter was included in the bible?