

STUDY NOTES

A LETTER TO THE ROMANS // NEW CITY CHURCH

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The following content is based on the message “Obedience of Faith” on 1/29/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective communities.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 1:1-7

TO ALL IN ROME WHO ARE LOVED BY GOD

The apostle Paul writes this letter to the followers of Jesus in Rome in about 55 AD.

- *What do you know about ancient Rome?*

Rome was the center of the ancient world. It was the center of government, law, education, art, and technology. It only makes sense that the Gospel made its way to Rome after visitors from there received the Holy Spirit at the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10).

- *While Phoenix is not Rome, why is our witness in Phoenix so important like the witness of Christ followers in Rome was so important?*

PAUL, SET APART FOR THE GOSPEL

Paul recognized that he was a servant of Christ and that he was called into his ministry. Christians in leadership positions must recognize the servant nature of their roles in the work of the kingdom.

- *What all do you think Paul is communicating by calling himself a servant of Christ?*

Paul considered himself set apart by God for the Gospel which was promised in the scripture by the Old Testament prophets. This was fulfilled by Jesus—who was a

descendant of David—when Jesus rose from the dead. This is truly good news (Gospel).

It is the resurrection that sets Jesus apart and authenticates his claim to deity.

- *Why do you think it is so important for Paul to root Jesus in history for his readers?*
- *How does the resurrection authenticate Jesus?*

FOR THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

Paul is writing to see “the obedience of faith” among the Romans. To accept Christ as Savior is to give up all rights to oneself. God’s call is not an invitation but a powerful and effective reaching out to claim individuals for himself. Faith is not intellectual assent to a series of propositions but surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Only in obedience is there faith, for faith is not emotional feeling or intellectual acceptance, but an active response to the person of Jesus.”
(New American Commentary)

- *When you hear the word “obedience” what is your internal reaction?*

FOR HIS NAME AMONG ALL THE NATIONS

We obey Christ as witness to all the nations. This has been God’s plan all along. He desires to see people come to him through the witness of his people. This is why we can’t lose our identity as Christians and just go with the rest of the world. We have been called to be saints.

The ultimate purpose of God’s calling is that redeemed humanity becomes like him in Holiness.

- *In what ways can you obey Christ as a witness?*
- *Obedience is easier said than done. What can we do when we feel weak?*
- *How does obedience to Christ remind us of grace and lead to peace?*
- *Pray for the Spirit’s strength to obey for the sake of Jesus’s name.*