

STUDY NOTES

A LETTER TO THE ROMANS *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Paul’s Lament and our Misdirected Zeal” on 5/28/17 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://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 community groups.

PRAYER

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

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 10 *(read throughout as directed)*

PAUL’S LAMENT AND OUR MISDIRECTED ZEAL

Read Romans 10:1-4. Paul is lamenting the way his Jewish people are refusing to receive the message of Jesus. He is aware that they are acting like he once acted before he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. He longs for the Jewish people to acknowledge Jesus fulfills the law and faith in Him brings salvation.

- *What are we pursuing with great energy and enthusiasm (zeal)?*
- *Is this causing us to cling to our own way getting right with God?*

CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH + BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART

Read Romans 10:5-13. Paul is, again, comparing the difference between “righteousness from law” and “righteousness from faith” as he sides passionately with salvation through faith in Jesus. He asserts this in verses 9 and 10 by writing a “chiastic” that is easy for memorization and internalization.

- *What happens for you and your community after you’ve “confessed with your mouth and believed in your heart”?*
- *How might our own salvation be tied up in the salvation of the other?*

RHETORICAL QUESTIONS + GOOD NEWS

Read Romans 10:14-17. Paul is comparing his preaching mission to a similar experience from Isaiah 51-55. Katherine Grieb puts it like this, “The irony is painful to Paul: Isaiah’s message, which was intended for Israel seeking righteousness (being made right with God), has been heard and responded to by the Gentiles, who were not even looking for righteousness (they didn’t know they needed to be made right with God), but it has not been heard and responded to by Israel!”

If Paul is describing “good news” as the completeness of all of things (from the Hebrew word, “Shalom”) then our view of the “good news” might expand.

- *Why is this irony painful for Paul?*
- *Talk more about the Good News that Paul is talking about. Read Isaiah 52:7.*
- *How might our understanding of Good News expand based on Paul’s quote and words?*

GOD’S OUTSTRETCHED ARMS

Read Romans 10:18-21. As Paul asks himself why the people of Israel have refused salvation from faith in Jesus he reminds all of us to beware of falling into the trap of not caring. And as Paul reminds us regarding this Good News the Israelites are refusing, “The message has gone throughout the earth, and the words to all the world.” Do we see it?

- *Have you become like Israel, no longer caring? If not, how do you guard against it?*
- *But if we still care, are we actively participating in bringing this Shalom (Good News) to the community we live in, and the world at large? What does that look like for you as individuals and as a community group?*