

Wrestling with Romans
Romans 3:1-20
Discussion Guide, February 28, 2021

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: *To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. - Romans 2:7*

- How did the reality of a universal coming judgment impact the way you lived this past week?

OPEN:

- When you think of the word "sin" what comes to mind?
 - o If you had to pick a "leaning," do you think you tend to lean towards being paralyzed by the fear of sin or tend not to take sin seriously?

READ and ASK: Romans 3:1-20

- What stands out to you most in this passage? Why?
- How is sin defined in today's society?
 - o What is sin?
- What religious activities are we tempted to rely on for our justification before God?
- What excuses do people use to explain away continuing sinful behavior in our lives?
- What would Paul's reaction be to the statement, "you can't appreciate the good until you have experienced the bad?" (not talking about recognizing the reality of our sinful condition, but actually indulging in sin to appreciate the good)
- What do verses 19-20 tell us about the purpose of the law?
- Up to this point in Romans, what has Paul been trying to prove? How important is that in understanding the gospel?

APPLY:

- In what ways do we minimize the effects of sin or of disobeying God's law?
- When did you first become aware of your sinfulness and need for God?
 - o What is the danger in measuring our goodness in relative terms (such as comparing ourselves to "notorious sinners")?
- Rhetorical or not: Do you have some sins in your life that you need to confess to God (or another person) and repent of this week?
 - o NEXT STEP: What action steps do you need to take in light of the reality of your sinfulness before God?

Memory Work:

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. - Romans 3:20