

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: Getting the Diagnosis

Reading: Romans 1: 18-32

Date: 28th January 2024 (AM)

Has anyone had any answers to prayer in the last week that they can share with the group? Share any personal prayer requests and spend a few minutes praying for one another.

[Note to leaders: Please treat the questions below as a guide. Every group is different. You will need to make the questions 'your own'. Use them if they're helpful, but don't feel bound by them].

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. **Verse 18.** As Paul prepares the Christians in Rome for his mission to Spain, he encourages them that the Good News of Jesus is *relevant* to everyone (verse 16) and *available* to everyone (verse 17). It is also *urgent* for everyone (verses 18ff). Why is it urgent? What is God's diagnosis of us as a human race? Is this idea new to you?
2. Why is God's anger fully justified, according to **verses 19-20**? Surely God can't blame people who have never come into contact with the gospel? (How would Paul respond?)
3. God's judgment is not only a future thing. It is also a present thing experienced in the world today. What is that judgment, according to the repeated phrase in **verses 24, 26 and 28**?
4. We must not focus *only* on sexual sins. But why does Paul include sexual sins in this list (**verses 24, 26-27**)? i.e. How are our relationships with one another uniquely connected with the truth about God that our race suppresses? (See **Gen. 1:27**).
5. Why does Paul include such a long list of sins in **verses 29-31**? What does their existence tell us about our world? Of what are they signs/symptoms?
6. This passage is not happy reading. But how is it a vital part of the Good News Paul wants us to understand and share?

Pray

- *Pray for opportunities this week to talk to friends, family members or work colleagues about the Lord Jesus.*
- *Pray that the letter to the Romans would train us as a church and inspire us in sharing God's Good News more.*
- *Pray for our PCC Away Morning on Saturday 3rd February as we discuss how to grow as a welcoming, loving, caring church family that supports one another as we all battle against sin.*
- *Pray for those who come to church who are not yet followers of Jesus.*