

Questions for Growth Group Discussion and Personal Reflection Romans 3:21-31

“This is the most important paragraph that has ever been written.”

1. Using mainly Romans chapters 1-3 (but include any other Bible passages that come to mind), describe the bad news as it relates to you, your relationship with God, and your eternal destiny apart from Christ (for starters see Romans 1:18, 32; 2:2, 5-6; 3:9, 19-20)
2. Keeping all that has been said in mind, read Romans 3:19-20. Make a list of the emotions this “news” stirs in you and the members of your group.
3. The opening words of verse 21 are “But now” (NIV) or “But now God” (NLT). Talk about what these two or three monosyllabic words communicate. What emotions do these words stir within you and the members of your group?
4. Read Romans 3:21-24 noting how verse 23 summarizes the bad news while verse 24 summarizes the good. Share any comments you may have.
5. Using the Bible and an English Dictionary (feel free to use a Greek Lexicon if you have access to one), look up the following words and translate them into everyday English to explain what God did for us in Jesus.
 - a. Righteousness
 - b. Justification
 - c. Redemption
 - d. Atonement
6. This salvation is not automatically given to all. Those who wish to benefit from this great gift must meet one condition—they must trust in Jesus. What does it mean to “trust” in Christ or to have “faith” in God’s promise of salvation in Christ (if you need a starter look at Romans 4:23-25 and/or connect the story of Moses lifting high the serpent and Jesus being lifted up on the cross, John 3:14-15)?
7. When did the message of God’s grace in Jesus Christ become real to you and what difference is it making in your life right now?

Closing

Assign the following passages to five readers in your group. Have the entire group look up each passage and mark that place in his or her Bible (so that it can easily be found). When the reader reads, each group member should silently follow along. Slow the reading to a thoughtful pace and put a space of at least 15 seconds between each of the five readings. After the final reading, close in prayer as the Spirit leads.

1. Isaiah 53:4-6
2. Hebrews 2:14-3:1
3. Hebrews 7:23-8:2
4. Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-14

5. Romans 1:16-17

For Next Week

- Read Romans 4:1-25
- Memorize Romans 3:23