

Life Group Notes 08/08/2021 Streamed Week 68
Peter Mehegan: Romans week 10 Chapter 10

(Simple advice: If you're new to these notes, here's my advice: **Do not be overwhelmed by these notes as another "home school" assignment, or even that you need to "do" all or any of this outline!** This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**) The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the second bar. Please enjoy!)

CROWD BREAKER: Think of the first time you heard the gospel story told. How old were you? Do you remember what you thought? Can you share? Write the headlines for the coming week. What is going to happen? What will be your response? —The scribe

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to fearlessly proclaim the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. REMEMBER TO BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. It's a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions raised by this week's message on Sunday. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

Quick recap: Romans 1: The righteousness of God is revealed. **What do you remember? How is it revealed?** The wrath of God is revealed. **What do you remember? What brought on the wrath of God?** (We have hidden the knowledge of God in unrighteousness.) **What is the result?** (God's wrath is revealed by a mindset...He has given us over to a depraved mind: What is evil is good, and whatever is good is evil.)

Look at what "they" are guilty of: 1:29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful. They invent new forms of evil; they disobey their parents. 31 They are senseless, faithless, heartless, merciless. **How much of you do you see in this? Who's guilty? Who's not guilty?**

(Look up 2 Tim 2: 1 But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. **2** For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, 4 traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these! **How much of you do you see in this? Who's guilty? Who's not guilty? How terrible are these times? What's the solution.?**

Chapter 2: **Peter quotes Pogo from the sixties comic strip, "We have met the enemy and he is us." How does this apply? Discuss this next idea and say why it's true: "Guilty is the one who judges...and does the same thing himself."** (Remember, the wrath of God is revealed...on the unrighteous, who leaves off acknowledging God as God.) **How does this work: Those who live out the Law outside the law are circumcised, not by the hand in the flesh, but of the heart? (2:29) You're truly Jewish if you are one inwardly. ("The one who is physically uncircumcised yet keeps the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.)**

Chapter 3: **How does the fact that the Jews, having received the Word first, Have pre-eminence? Did it help? Why not?** (Possessing that word is not salvation. You have to believe it. As pastor Mark has said throughout this study, and as Paul says in 3:20 "The Law merely brings awareness of sin.") **Can you quote Romans 3:23 (Hint...all have sinned...)?** 3:23 All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...(the forgotten verse... **Can you quote Romans 3:24?** 24 And are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.) **Why is verse 23 easier to remember than verse 24? What do these verses mean?** (It works for everyone...but you have to believe.) **What does it mean to be justified?**

(What is justification? Prison to freedom, with your record expunged. No record. No probation period.)

Chapter 4: **Why is Abraham the father of our faith? Whom did he hear? What was his response? What was God's reaction to Abraham's response?** (Abraham believed God and it counted to him for righteousness. God spoke to him, and Abraham took God at His word. Before he was ever circumcised...he was declared righteous, because he heard the process and believed it: he coupled that word with faith and established it.) **Look at verses 20 and 21: What did it mean to believe? Why is this important?** **20** Yet he did not waver through disbelief in the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, **21** being fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised.

22 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

Chapter 5 **Who brought sin into the world? From whom did we learn grace and truth?** We learned that sin entered the world through one man's transgression... righteousness was extended through one Man's obedience. The Law became a magnifying glass to sin. Grace was magnified by life through Jesus.

Chapter 6 We learned that we are only as strong as that with which we identify...either sin unto death, or by considering ourselves already dead to sin, we self-identify as alive unto righteousness. We learned that sin pays wages...and we cannot earn righteousness. We are already set free by a higher Law. **Why is it right to "self-identify" as alive unto God? How is it possible to move from death to life?**

Chapter 7 We learned of Paul's struggle. I do what I hate, and do not do what I love. **How much hope is there in this struggle? Do you believe Paul won? Does that give you hope?** There is a war waged on the soul of man between sin in the flesh, and righteousness in the spirit. If the flesh wins out, we die. When the Spirit wins...we gain life and righteousness.

Chapter 8 We discovered that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us surely, because we are constantly drawn to our consciousness of sin and righteousness and judgment. Our body is dead because of sin, but our spirit is alive because of righteousness! That same Spirit can restore life to our bodies, dead because of sin. **What are the chances that the Holy Spirit can give life to your own mortal body? How does this change your perspective?** (If you do not have the spirit in you, you're not even aware of your own sin and your need. But when you cry out to Him for mercy...you demonstrate His presence in your own spirit. We have become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Think of what that means.)

Chapter 9. Last week we saw two important things: First, Paul's love for his people led him to say he would accept his own condemnation to hell if it would mean the salvation for his friends and family in the flesh. **What does this say of Paul's love for his race?** (Jesus said there is no greater love than this, to lay down his soul for his friends. Paul was willing.) Secondly, Israel failed to believe, and that failure opened the way for the gentiles to come to the faith. The Gentiles who had no clue, and yet came to believe were drawn to Abraham's well by the same criteria whereby Abraham was accepted. You have to believe. And when you believe, you cannot be put to shame. **Can you show that we have believed as Abraham believed?**

Now we come to this week...

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. Talk to me...Paul is praying that prayer, what kind of an answer is he getting? What's wrong with his prayer? Does he stop praying? Look what happens when understanding comes:

2For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **3**For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. **What is the difference between "good" and "good enough?" Have you ever exercised on a step machine? What is it like on a step machine? What are the odds of getting to the top? If the only standard is the top step, how much hope does he have, who uses a step machine to get there? If I boycott Netflix, and take my entertainment from Amazon Prime instead, what have I learned?**

4For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. **Who does Paul say is the actual standard we should be using? Why is any other standard no standard at all?**

5For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." **According to Moses, what does success depend on? How effective are your efforts?** **6**But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) **7**or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **8**But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (**that is, the word of faith which we preach**): **If it is Christ does not come by going up to Him...or by going down to the grave...How does Christ come? How effective are your words for bringing Christ into a situation? How effective does Paul say they should be?**

9that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10**For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **Why the mouth? Why the heart? Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." How does this apply here?**

11For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." **12**For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13**For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." **Take a moment...what does it encourage you to think, that there is "no distinction" between Jew and Greek? How does that encourage us to respond? How is this different from what the world teaches?**

14How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? **15**And how shall they preach unless they are sent? **Answer this question. If no one speaks, who can believe? How did you come to believe? Who spoke to you?**

As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

16But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" **17**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **Does faith**

ALWAYS come the first time, the first time you hear? What are the hindrances to faith? What does Jesus mean when He says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks?"

Look up John 8:31. 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly My disciples; ***32*** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ***How do you "abide in His Word?"***

Look up John 8:36. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ***What does it mean to be "free indeed?"***

Look up 2 Peter 1:2-4 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ***3*** as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ***4*** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the ***lc*** corruption *that is* in the world through lust. ***How do the promises make us "partakers of the divine nature?"***

Look up 2 Corinthians 1:20: 20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ***What does this mean? Having heard that the promises are now "yes" in Christ Jesus...and having spoken the Amen, what can we earnestly expect. How does this help us look forward to what's ahead? How do we, like Abraham, become "fully persuaded that God will keep His promises" toward us? What if it takes time?***

Follow the truth wherever it leads you. What is your next step?

Take time to share. Talk about your biggest takeaway. What is the next step? Take time to pray for one another. Be blessed. —the scribe