

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHY THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS
Romans 3:9-20
Not Ashamed (Romans) — Week 8

ICEBREAKER: How do you define a cult?

OVERVIEW: Romans is all about the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rm 1:16-17). Paul begins to explain the gospel in Romans 1:18, and the way he goes about it is important. He begins with the bad news — man's desperate condition before God. Many people don't like to think of themselves as totally depraved, eternally doomed, and utterly helpless to save themselves. But if you don't understand the bad news, then you can't understand why the gospel is good news.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What is sin?
3. Are you a sinner? Explain.
4. Do you believe that you deserve eternal punishment? Explain.
5. Read Genesis 6:5-7 and answer the following questions.
 - a) What does this passage teach about human beings?
 - b) Verse 5 describes people as both wicked and evil. Are these words synonyms, or do they have a different meaning?
 - c) What does it mean by "every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time (v. 5)"?

- d) What did God do as a result of mankind's evil, and will he do this again (see Gen 6:7)?
- e) Since the description of humanity's evil in this passage was written thousands of years ago, does it still apply to human beings today? Explain.

6. Read Romans 3:9-20 and refer to Sunday's sermon for the rest of the questions. The sermon discussed three reasons you need a Savior. What are they, and what verses in this passage support each point?
7. How does Paul drive home the idea that people are not only sinful, but very sinful?
8. What would you say to someone who agrees that they are a sinner, but that the punishment of eternal hell is too harsh?
9. Verse 20 says that people cannot be justified in God's sight by the works of the law. Why not?
10. How does this passage explain why the gospel is good news?
11. How does understanding why the gospel is good news affect your relationship with God?

The Last Word: "The bad news is what makes the gospel so good!"

