

## The Letter to the Romans

### The Heart of the Gospel and the Judgment of God

Wednesday, August 12

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

#### Reading

#### Chapters 1 & 2

#### Opening Prayer

#### Questions to Consider

##### Chapter 1

1. Paul introduces himself to the Roman congregation as a **slave** and **apostle**, blesses them, gives thanks for them and then states his purpose in writing. Lastly, he proclaims his **faith** in the **Good News** (Romans 1:1-17). What does Paul mean by the terms **slave** and **apostle**? These are terms we seldom use today. One is considered very negative. What does he mean by **faith**, and what does that have to do with **life**? What does he mean by **Good News**?

2. After his grand introduction and greeting, Paul launches into a **diatribe (vs 18-32)**. Today, **diatribe** is defined as “a forceful and bitter verbal attack against someone or something.” In Paul’s day **diatribe** was a form of rhetoric, often an oration designed to gain the attention of the audience, cause them to engage in critical thinking and finally to win them over to the point of view of the speaker. How do you suppose the Romans reacted? How would you react today to this style of preaching?

##### Chapter 2

3. Members of the congregation are grateful that they are not like the **sinners** Paul has just described, but he then turns on them (2:1-29) and says they are “just as bad,” Jew and gentile alike. Who then is worthy of the love of God?

4. What is natural theology? How does that apply here? Do you believe in this concept?

#### What does this segment of Romans mean for me today?

#### Closing Prayer