

The Letter to the Romans

Justification and Righteousness

Wednesday, August 19

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Reading

Chapters 3 & 4

Opening Prayer

Questions to Consider

Chapter 3

1. Following the **diatribe** of Chapter 2, Paul introduces the concept of **faithfulness (Chapter 3:3-8), the faithfulness of God**, in the presence of human **unfaithfulness** and **sin**. He also addresses excuses for continuing to **sin** after confessing belief in Jesus Christ. What is **the faithfulness of God**? The more we **sin**, the more God **forgives** us, brings glory to God. True?
2. Just to remind us, in case we had forgotten **Chapter 2**, that all are guilty of **sin** before God, Paul paraphrases from the Book of Psalms in **verses 9-20** to make it quite clear. Have you ever felt totally free from sin? When? What was it like? Have you known someone who said they were free from sin? What were they like? If we had no commandments would there be no sin?
3. Paul now introduces concepts in **verses 21-31** that are central to the Christian, especially the Protestant, understanding of the relationship between Jesus Christ and humanity. Discuss **made right, righteous/righteousness, sacrifice, faith (in this context)**. This is the beginning of the **justification** argument. What is **justification**?

Chapter 4

4. What are the principal points of Chapter 4, the Abraham chapter? How do they support the concepts of Chapter 3?

What does this segment of Romans mean for me today?

Closing Prayer