



Romans

Insights into Romans

Romans 1:1,4

The Impact of Nero

Paul's claim: One True King

Gospel = euangelion

Lord = kurios

Christ or Messiah = christos

The One True King saves:

Objectively: Chapters 1-5

Day-to-day experience: Chapters 6-8

The One True King has a plan:

Chapters 9-11

The One True King is Lord

12:1-15:13

The One True King is advancing

15:14-16:27

Romans 1:1-7: Not a call to respond to a formula, but to a person.

1. The Gospel is not about assenting to certain doctrines.
2. The Gospel is not a transaction for a better life.
3. The Gospel is a revolution in our thinking.
 - a. surrender
 - b. the mission
 - c. expect to be used by God

Romans 1:8-15: Living in debt

1. Falling into debt
2. Paying our debt: latreuo
 - a. proclaim the Gospel by enjoying it
 - b. pray for opportunities to share it
 - c. help others understand it

Romans 1:16-17: Summary - The One True King Saves

1. Abraham
2. dikaiosune

Questions:

1. What does servant and apostle reveal about Paul?

2. From the use of “call” and “called,” vv. 5-7, what does it mean to be a Christian? In verse 7, what do the terms indicate about the way God views us?

3. Note all the “I” statements. What do these say about Paul?

4. Why would Paul, a highly educated Jew, write verse 14? How would he rewrite that to address your community?

5. What facts can you learn about the gospel from verses 2-4 and 16-17? Pretend that you meet someone “turned off” by religious words: how would you explain verse 17?

Reflections:

How did God call you to Christ? How has that call changed your goals? Your sense of obligation to others? To what mission or task do you sense God nudging you? How is that reflected in your prayers? Your actions?

What questions do you have?



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The One True King saves

Romans 1:18-32: The Gentile's Need for Salvation

The degenerate & the unregenerate, the irreligious and the religious

The Jew vs. Gentile Issue

The wickedness of the pagan culture: vv. 18-32

1. Is ignorance an acceptable excuse?

What creation reveals?

What our conscience reveals?

What consequences reveal?

2. The result of a culture that rejects God.

What is the real problem?

The downward spiral

God's judgment: vv. 24,26,28

The list of sins

Game: the best excuse

What was the best excuse you ever gave as a kid when your parents caught you doing something wrong? What's the best one you've ever heard from a kid?

Questions:

1. Read verse 17. If verse 17 is the solution, how do verses 18-21 describe the problem? What is wrong with people's relationship to God?
2. What can be learned about God through nature? How do you see God in nature?
3. Why then do people tend to worship creation rather than the Creator? How do these attitudes lead to evil acts?

4. How does God respond to these evil attitudes? How is giving people over to evil a part of their punishment?

5. How does their “freedom” (to do as they desire) actually become a Trap (that is, an inescapable consequence)?

Reflections:

In reading through the list of sins in verses 29-32, how do you feel when you see that some of your faults are listed along with the “really Awful” sins others commit?

What questions do you have?