

UNASHAMED

Discussion Questions



THE DONELSON
FELLOWSHIP

Read Romans 1:18-3:31.

1. Compare the revelation of God in 1:18 with his revelation in 1:17. What is the difference?
2. How do people in their unrighteousness suppress the truth of God?
3. When people refuse to acknowledge God they become futile in their thinking. Where in today's society do you see examples of futile thinking?
4. In 1:24-32 the phrase "God gave them over..." appears 3 times. Identify those three occurrences and the particular societal sins that characterize each phase of God's judgment.
5. Addressing those who pass judgment on the heathen in 2:1, Paul points to them and says that they are also without excuse. Why is that? How could we do the same today?
6. Though the Jews possessed the Law of God why were they still guilty before God?
7. Why was it so important to Paul that the Jews also understood their guilt before God?
8. Paul encouraged the Jews to realize that they were indeed blessed by God to be among His people and have his law even though these realities did not justify them before God. How might people today see the advantage of growing up in Church or in a Christian home even though those situations do not automatically save them?
9. Read Romans 3:10-18. How many people in the world stand righteous before God on their own?
10. Since 3:20 tells us that through the law comes the knowledge of sin which of the following images best illustrates the role of the law in bringing people to God?
 - a. The Law is like a medicine that makes us completely well
 - b. The Law is like a surgeon that removes our tumor
 - c. The Law is like an x-ray that exposes where we are broken
11. In 3:21-26 how does justification by faith as the method of our salvation make it possible for God to be both just (fully holy and righteous) and the justifier of those who have faith in Jesus?
12. Realizing that salvation is by faith and not by works, what then happens to our right to brag about our righteousness? Why then are some still self-righteous in the way they look at others?

Pray as a group over what you've studied today.

If anyone has not listened to the Week 1 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.

Read Romans 4:1-25.

1. Having made his point at the end of chapter 3, that salvation by faith leaves sinful people with no room for bragging before God, in chapter 4 Paul uses the story of which Old Testament character to reinforce his point?
2. What is meant by the quote from Genesis 15:6, "Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness"? How is this true with us?
3. After quoting from one of David's repentance songs in Psalm 32:1 and 2, Paul discusses whether this blessing was based on circumcision or not. What was his conclusion? Why is this important for our understanding of salvation?
4. What then was the significance of circumcision for Abraham?
5. In verses 13-15 Paul explains that the promise came not through the law but through the righteousness of faith. What does the law bring? So if we were to insist on getting from God what we deserve, what would we receive?
6. Since God's promise is received through faith, it depends not on our works but on what? Which of these two do you trust more?
7. When God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, what was Abraham's physical condition at that time? Did Abraham believe in himself (his abilities) or in the grace and power of God?
8. While Abraham believed that God would keep his promise of giving a child to the aged couple, what are we asked to believe?
9. How did God accomplish this kind of salvation for us?
10. Based on this discussion about salvation by faith, which of the following would be more challenging for God to save?
 - a. A child
 - b. A drunk
 - c. A thief
 - d. No difference
11. Have you trusted God for this salvation? Have you shared this salvation with those around you?

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If anyone has not listened to the Week 2 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.

Read Romans 5:1-11.

1. 5:1 begins with the word “therefore.” This is a key word in biblical interpretation which the writer uses in order to prompt the reader’s memory of the key ideas that were previously considered. Which of the following ideas does not match Paul’s teaching regarding justification by faith as taught in Romans 1-4.
 - a. All people are guilty of sin
 - b. No one can be made righteous through the law
 - c. Because of the story of Abraham we know that circumcision is a prerequisite for salvation
2. The opening statement in 5:1 uses the phrase, “having been justified by faith...” From this statement we should infer...
 - a. Justification is a work which we must accomplish
 - b. Justification is a work which is done for us
3. Describe the importance of peace with God.
4. After reading 5:1-11 go back and circle every occurrence of the preposition “through.” How many times did it show up (the number will vary depending on the translation used)? Look at each occurrence and identify in each phrase the blessing that is ours “through Jesus.”
5. How does the “hope of the glory of God” cause God’s people to rejoice?
6. In 5:3-4 Paul points to a series of virtues that are developmentally linked to each other. What are those virtues? How do these virtues produce each other?
7. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this process?
8. For what type of person would someone be willing die? List the following people in order from the one for whom you would most readily be willing to die down to the person for whom you would be least willing to die.
 - a. Friend
 - b. Murderer
 - c. Co-worker
 - d. Sibling
 - e. Sex Trafficker
 - f. President/King
 - g. Your child
 - h. Drunk
 - i. Unknown child
 - j. Drug dealer
9. What was the state of humanity when Christ died for us?

10. How does the death of Christ demonstrate God's love for us?

11. What does Paul mean when he says that we are reconciled to God?

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If anyone has not listened to the Week 3 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.

Read Romans 5:12-8:39.

1. After reading Romans 5:12-21 identify who we are in Adam vs. who we are in Christ.
2. Remember all the details you can about your baptism. Who baptized you? Where? When? Having read Romans 6:1-4, what do you now see as the real theological significance of that baptism?
3. Why should it be impossible for true followers of Jesus to live comfortably in a lifestyle of sin?
4. How do we present our bodies to God as instruments for righteousness instead of unrighteousness?
5. Read Romans 6:20-23. Compare the fruit of righteousness with the fruit/wages of sin.
6. In Romans 7:1-6 Paul discusses how our union with Christ frees us from the restrictions of the law. What image from human society does Paul use to illustrate this idea?
7. When you read Romans 7:7-25, how can a follower of Christ have that kind of struggle with sin? Is such a person truly a follower of Christ? Do you identify with Paul's struggles?
8. What are the privileges that you have from the Spirit of God in 7:1-17?
9. In your life what are the hardest pains or trials that you will face? Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-29. List Paul's sufferings as identified in that passage. In Romans 8:19 Paul says that those sufferings are not worth mentioning when weighed against the glory that will be revealed. Can you say the same?
10. For whom do all things work together for the good in 8:28?
11. What frightens you the most? How can you see Christ conquering that of which you are afraid?
12. When you read that nothing can separate you from God, how does that make you feel about the challenges of your life?

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If anyone has not listened to the Week 4 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.

Read Romans 12.

1. How do we present our bodies as living sacrifices?
2. In what ways are you most likely to be conformed to the thinking and patterns of this world?
3. Paul exhorts us in 12:2 to be “transformed by the renewing of our minds.” How do you think this can be accomplished in us? What role do we play?
4. Scripture repeatedly speaks of the church as one body with different gifts. What different gifts do you see at work in the church?
5. How might one exercise the gifts of God in an improper way?
6. When you read Romans 12:9-21 which of these marks of a Christian seems most challenging to you?
7. How do we show others genuine love?
8. In trying to live in harmony with others, what do you see as the most disruptive element to that harmony?
9. What role do you see hospitality playing in the ministry of the church of the first century? What role could hospitality play now?
10. How are people inclined to treat their enemies? How does Paul tell us to treat our enemies? What influence might that have on our relationships?

Pray as a group over what you’ve studied today.

If anyone has not listened to the Week 5 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.

Read Romans 13:8-14.

1. Read Mark 12:28-34 and then Romans 13:8. What place does love have in the life of the Christian?
2. How do the commandments mentioned in 13:9 find their fulfillment in “love you neighbor as yourself”?
3. Write the names of four neighbors. How might you show God’s love to them?
4. When Christians awaken from their slumber how do they live? Do you live like this?
5. Which works of darkness do you need to get rid of?
6. This “put on” and “take off” language is a common feature of Paul’s writing. How do we put on the armor of light?
7. Why do people typically do immoral deeds in the dark? How should our deeds differ?
8. How might our works of love influence those around us who seem to live in spiritual darkness?

Pray as a group over what you’ve studied today.

If anyone has not listened to the Week 6 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.