

# ROMANS

XV · XVI

## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

JANUARY 19, 2020

### INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Northview is running many different courses this winter/spring.
  - DivorceCare/ DivorceCare for Kids: 13wk seminar starting **January 14**  
More information and to register see: [northview.org/courses](http://northview.org/courses)
  - Gospel of John Bible Studies for Men and Women  
Start the week of **January 13**. Register at [northview.org/men](http://northview.org/men) or [northview.org/women](http://northview.org/women)
- Next Seasons Luncheon is happening **January 31**. More information to come.
- Next Praise and Prayer night will be **February 8**.
- Sign up for Northview's Newsletter at [northview.org](http://northview.org) to never miss another event.

### GROUP PRAYER

#### Spend time praying together.

Pray for each other, that you would desire to spread the word, and have open doors to proclaim the message of Chris; that you would fearlessly make the mystery of the gospel known.

Pray for our church and church leaders, church planters and missionaries to clearly and boldly preach the gospel. Pray that the message of the Lord would spread rapidly, through our cities, provinces, country and world.

### LEADER NOTES

#### Suggested Timing for a 2 hour meeting:

**Connection:** 30 Minutes (visiting / snacks / announcements / ice breakers)

**Content:** 30 Minutes (Observation and Interpretation questions):

**Commission:** 10-15 minutes (Application questions)

**Care:** 15-30 minutes (Sharing and Prayer)

**Connection:** 15-30 minutes (visiting / snacks)

#### LEADING SERMON-BASED DISCUSSIONS:

- Read the scripture passage(s) together as a group.
- Direct people back to the text if they are going on rabbit trails or talking about opinions and speculation, by asking, "Where do you see that in the text? What answer does the text provide for that question?"
- As you transition to prayer time, pray through the issues and ideas that the text brought up.

### ROMANS SERMON SERIES

Our Fall Sermon Series in Romans is highly practical! In Romans 1-11 Paul provides a theological framework for the Christian Faith. Now, in the final section of this letter, he gives the church in Rome specific examples of how this faith should be lived out.

**Benefits of this series:** It will feel highly practical for all of your group members. Romans 12-16 will force them to reflect on how their faith impacts their everyday life.

**Potential pitfalls of this series:** It is easy to fall into moralism and legalism when we focus on what we should and should not do if we are Christians. Keep this in mind! The sermon discussion questions will aim to remind us of the gospel truths behind each command.

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS



## Observation

This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book of Romans.

1. Read Romans 15:22-33.
2. Why has Paul been hindered from coming to Rome in the past? (Hint: look back to Romans 15:17-21, and also check out Romans 1:8-15. How does Paul begin this letter?)  
*He has been determined to obey God's call to take the gospel message to those who haven't heard it. This had caused him to be unable to visit Rome.*
3. What is the reason he can't come to them now?  
*He is on his way to Jerusalem to help the Christians there (v25).*
4. What reason is given for the Gentile's contribution to the poor in Jerusalem? What was their motivation for giving?  
*The Gentiles give materially because they have shared in the spiritual blessing from the Jews (v27). Remember: the Jews were the original people of God, and recipients of God's promises but now others are brought into God's people through Christ!*
5. How does Paul want the Church in Rome to join him? Name specific requests.  
*Paul wants them to join him in his struggle by praying for him (v30) and for safety from unbelievers in Judea (v31); the monetary gift to the church in Jerusalem to be favourably received (v31); and that he might get to come to Rome, which he would consider a great joy (v31).*

## Interpretation

This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative. If you are running out of time, feel free to skip this section.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-9.  
This passage sounds very similar to Romans 15! What does it tell us about Paul's plans for a) the gift for Jerusalem? b) His travel plans?  
*a) Paul will send approved people to carry the gift and, if it is advisable, he will go also (v3&4)*  
*b) He makes plans but allows for the Lord's interjection (v7)*

2. What does James 4:13-17 add to the idea of making plans?  
*We should submit our planning to God's will.*
3. Acts 21:7-36 is the account of what happened to Paul when he did make the trip to Jerusalem.  
a) What happens to Paul?  
*Paul arrives in Jerusalem but is dragged from the temple (v30); the crowd of unbelievers try to kill him (v31), but the Roman commander and troops interrupt their plans (v31-32, 35); and Paul is arrested (v33).*  
b) How are the prayers he had asked for in Romans 15:30-31 answered?  
*Though he is beaten, he is protected from death because the Romans step in.*
4. Read 2 Thess 3:1, Col 4:3, Eph 6:19-20, Rom 1:10.  
What does Paul ask people to pray for on his behalf? What do his prayer requests reveal about what is important to him?  
*2 Thess. 3:1 - That the message of the Lord would spread rapidly*  
*Col. 4:3 - That God would open a door so they could proclaim the message of Christ.*  
*Eph. 6:19-20 - That he would be given the words and would fearlessly make the mystery of the gospel known*  
*Rom. 1:10 - Paul prays that the way would open up for him to come to the Church in Rome!*  
*The things Paul asks for, show that the spread of the gospel is Paul's priority!*

## Application

This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.

1. When it comes to making plans and decisions, people tend to lean toward one of two extremes. We have difficulty making choices because we are scared we will miss God's will for our lives, or we rush into decisions without prayer. On a scale of 1 - 10, where do you land on each extreme? Why?
2. What do you pray for in the midst of your plans? How can Paul's priorities encourage you as you pray?