



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP - QUESTION ONLY

Romans | Season 1, Ep. 2 | 1:7-15

Monday, March 16 - Sunday, March 22 (Week 10)

This week, Pastor Mike continued our journey through Romans 1, focusing on verses 7-15 where Paul finally gets to his greeting and explains why he's so eager to visit the church in Rome. The main question of the sermon was: Why is Paul so passionate about preaching the gospel to Christians in Rome?

The answer came in two parts:

First, Paul had an INNER MOTIVATION. He understood a powerful principle: "When faiths collide, encouragement multiplies." Paul wasn't just coming to bless them, he knew their faith would encourage him too. He was humble enough to recognize that even though he was this "Superman Christian," the believers in Rome could strengthen his faith. The sermon reminded us that there are "hidden heroes of the faith" all around us, people quietly hanging on to Jesus through suffering, infertility, job loss, illness, and family struggles. When we share our stories of how God is sustaining us, it causes faith to soar in others.

Second, Paul had a MORAL OBLIGATION. He described himself as a "debtor" not that he owed Jesus payback, but that he owed the gospel to others. This is the "debt of grace." Jesus entrusted Paul with the message of salvation, and Paul had no right to hoard it. He was obligated to share it with everyone, Greeks and barbarians, wise and foolish. The same is true for us. If we've been rescued from God's wrath through the gospel, we owe that message to people in our lives who don't know Jesus yet.

The sermon ended with a challenge: We can either PREACH the gospel with our mouths or PRESENT it with our lives. Sometimes believers don't just need to hear the gospel, they need to see it alive in us. Instead of giving judgment, punishment, or withdrawal to people in our lives, we need to show them grace and mercy.

The practical takeaway? Start praying for people who don't know Jesus. Go on walks and pray for your neighbors. Ask other believers how God is working in their lives. Be willing to share your own struggles and how Jesus is sustaining you.

QUESTION #1 - The sermon mentioned "hidden heroes of the faith," people quietly hanging on to Jesus through suffering. Who in your life might be one of these hidden heroes that you could encourage this week?

QUESTION #2 - The sermon said, "When faiths collide, encouragement multiplies." What keeps your faith isolated on an island and what would it take for you to be more open about how God is working in your life, or how you're struggling?





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QUESTION #3 - Paul was humble enough to believe that even "weaker/less mature/less far along on the journey" Christians could encourage him. The sermon mentioned that pride prevents us from receiving encouragement from others. Where do you struggle with pride, thinking you have nothing to learn from certain people, or that you need to have it all together before you can be honest?

QUESTION #4 - The sermon challenged us not just to PREACH the gospel with our mouths, but to PRESENT it with our lives, to show grace and mercy instead of judgment. Is there a believer in your life who needs to see the gospel lived out through you rather than receiving your judgment, punishment, or withdrawal?

GROUP CHALLENGE: This week, practice the "when faiths collide, encouragement multiplies" principle:

- Share with one person how God is working in your life (even if it's just that you're holding on)
- Ask one person how God is working in their life and really listen
- Pray for one non-believer by name every day

Come back next week ready to share what God did through those conversations.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE: Close your time by reciting the memory verse for the week together - Romans 1:16-17:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

