



Romans 10:1-21 | Week 12 | 4/20/2014

1. After reading Romans 9:2-3, it is clear that Paul loves the lost. What can we learn about prayer from reading Romans 10:1?
2. Have you ever prayed that way? For whom can you be praying for right now?
3. Why was the Jew of Romans lost in religion? (Romans 9:32)
4. How is the Christian life different from the religious life? In other words, what is the difference in receiving a gift (especially if the gift is Jesus himself) you did not deserve and a receiving a payment for something you have worked really hard for?
5. In Romans 10:3-4 the Jews of Romans were ignorant of the intent of the law. Jesus is at the end of the law because the law points to Jesus as the fulfillment of the "righteousness of God." Jesus is the righteousness revealed to "everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16-17). Instead of worshiping Jesus, the Jews of Romans relied on their own righteousness. Everyone is religious. Everyone is tempted to look toward their own good effort to justify themselves. This justifying work is always in service to an idol. At the bottom of this document is a list of statements that are attached to idols of the heart. Look through the list and identify which idols most apply to you.
6. How is serving this idol different than serving Jesus? What must we do to be accepted by Jesus? (Romans 10:8-13)
7. How does idolatry make you feel? How does receiving the grace of God make you feel? (Romans 10:11) Why do you think this is so?
8. There are three helpful tools in breaking the grip of idolatry in our lives: recognizing the idol, rebuking the idol, and replacing the idol with the gospel. Read Keller's prayer of rebuke and replacing (taken from Romans for You). How are these prayers true, helpful, and practical in the believers life?

Rebuking Prayer: "Lord, I see how repulsive this thing is as an idol. Lord, the thing itself is not evil— it is what my heart has done to it, elevating it, that makes it evil. I refuse to be controlled by it any longer. It wreaks havoc in my life. You justify me, not this. You are my master, not this. I will not be controlled by this. This is not my life— I don't have to have it. Christ is my life— I only have to have him."

Replacing Prayer: "Lord, I have been trying to earn my own salvation and weave my own righteousness. But you are my salvation and righteousness. I am accepted in your Son! All my problems come because I am forgetting how loved, honored, beautiful, secure, rich, respected, embraced, and free in Jesus I am. All other ways of finding honor, respect, purpose, and so on are vain. Let me be so ravished with your love for me that no other love can control me."

9. Paul gives an outline for conversion in Romans 10:14-17. In reverse order they are: send, preach, hear, and believe. How can you help New City and your Community Group to accomplish this outline? Who are you, your Community Group, and church sent to?
10. Pray.

Identifying our Idols (adopted from Keller, Romans for You)

Here is a (non-exhaustive) list of idol-based "life-lies:"

Life only has meaning, or I only have worth, if...

... I have power and influence over others. Power idolatry

... I am loved and respected by... Approval idolatry

... I have this kind of pleasure experience, or this particular quality of life. Comfort idolatry

... I have a particular kind of look or body image. Image idolatry

... I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of... Control idolatry

... people are dependent on me and need me. Helping idolatry

... someone is there to protect me and keep me safe. Dependence idolatry

... I am completely free from any obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone. Independence idolatry

... I am highly productive, getting a lot done. Work idolatry

... I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and/ or if I am excelling in my career. Achievement idolatry

... I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions. Materialism idolatry

... I am adhering to my religion's moral codes and am accomplished in its activities. Religion idolatry

... this one person is in my life and happy there and/ or happy with me. Individual person idolatry

... I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and have a self-made morality. Irreligion idolatry

... my race and culture are ascendant and/ or recognized in some way as superior. Racial/ cultural idolatry

... a particular social, professional, or other group lets me in. Belonging idolatry

... my children and/ or my parents are happy and happy with me. Family idolatry

... Mr or Ms "Right" is in love with me. Relationship idolatry

... I am hurting or in a problem. Only then do I feel noble, worthy of love, or able to deal with guilt. Suffering idolatry

... my political or social cause or party is making progress and ascending in influence or power. Ideology idolatry