



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

1140 Morrison Dr  
Fort Worth, TX 76120-3426

Phone: 817-451-5513  
Email: allan@celebrationnet.com

**We're on the Web!**  
**Www. Celebrationnet.com**

**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—2 Kings 7**

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Have you ever noticed Israel's repeating cycle—God's blessing, their rebellion, God's discipline, their repentance, God's restoration—in your life? Where are you right now?
2. Why were the lepers willing to take a risk, and what would that be like in our lives? What usually gets you to that point?
3. When is risk-taking related to faith, and when is it not? What are some risks you have taken for God? Is there a risk God is calling you to take right now?
4. Talk about something God has blessed you with recently. How could you share that blessing with others?
5. Discuss ways to develop a lifestyle of sharing God's greatest blessing, that of salvation, with those around you. Get specific.
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

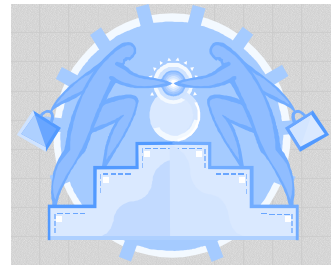
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find  
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**Adult Bible Fellowships**

**Locations, Times, Descriptions**

**9:00**

**10:45**



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS  
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Bower-Chappell
Rm 112		Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims	Rm 201	How People Grow
Rm 202		Rm 202	“ “ “
Rm 203	Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 203	30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 204		Rm 204	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	Open—Regis-Anderson
Rm 206	Experiencing God—Graham	Rm 206	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker
		Gym	College—Ayres-Getchell

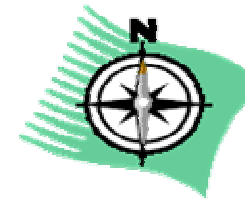
October 3, 2004

*Extreme Makeover (Inside Edition)  
Principles of Internal Change From the Book of Romans*

**Celebration Fellowship**

**Turn Out the Lights...**

**A preview of Romans 1:18-2:16**



Volume 3, Issue 5  
October 3, 2004

**Inside this issue:**

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Summary of Last Week's Study Questions	<b>1-2</b>
Study Guide	<b>2-3</b>
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**The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

**The Real Deal**

"The real deal" is someone or something that lives up to its reputation, the genuine article with no façade. The gospel that Paul introduces in Romans 1, and the way he applies it, is the "real deal" of Christianity. This is what Christianity is all about—about the gospel, about Jesus Christ, about giving and serving, about faith. As Paul begins his letter to the Christians at Rome, he describes himself as a bondservant, or slave, of Christ Jesus and as an apostle, one sent on a mission. This depicts "real" Christians as well. Just like Paul we are slaves of Christ, looking to Him for all our orders, and we are on a mission for Him. This purpose of this mission, as Paul goes on to say, is the gospel of God, for which he was set apart. In fact, all Christians are set apart to share with everyone the good news of Jesus Christ. This gospel, about which Paul would write, was first revealed through the Old Testament prophets. It fo-

known to be true. Rather than honoring the true God and His glorious nature, human beings have made idols of the created order, and have worshipped and served the creature instead of the Creator. As a result the judgment of God has fallen on all who have done this. He has turned these sinful idolaters over to their lower nature, allowing them to indulge in sexual immorality and homosexual perversion, so that they have received the penalty for such actions in themselves. He has given them over to a depraved mind,



**God wants to remake us from the inside out.**

leading them to do all kinds of things worthy of death. For those who simply judge these people, they, too, have done the same things, and find themselves condemned. They have violated their own standards. All are under the judgment of God and the lights have been turned off.

**(Romans 1:1-17)**

cused on the identity of Jesus, who was God's Son, but who was born of the lineage of David as a true man. When the Holy Spirit raised Him from the dead He was declared to be the Son of God with power, in contrast to His seemingly "weak" state while He walked the earth. It is important to know that Jesus was fully a man so that He can both identify with us, and be the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and it is vital that the resurrection revealed Him to be the powerful Son of God. These descriptions show that He truly is the only man who was also God, giving all who believe in Him forgiveness of sins, and access to His resurrection life and power. The fact that Christianity centers on this unique God-man sets it apart from all other world religions. Paul, who by the Holy Spirit would write this letter, was equipped to do so by the grace he had received from God, and by his appointment by God as an apostle. Through

God alone would he be able to achieve his first objective, that of securing the "obedience of faith" among the Gentiles. This means that faith consists of obedience to God, and this obedience comes from genuine belief in Him. Paul's second objective was to ensure that this obedience of faith would occur for "His" [Jesus'] name sake. Paul looked for more than just superficial acceptance of Jesus; he wanted to see changed lives that would bring Him glory for the changes. The Romans, because they were the "called of Jesus Christ", were qualified to receive this letter; they were on the same team, as it were. Similarly, all Christians are "called" of Jesus Christ, and should take to heart all the things that His Spirit would say to these Roman Christians. As verse 7 says Christians are "beloved of God", and have been called as "saints", or those set apart for God's special purpose. To have a love relationship with God, and to be used by Him are great privileges;

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Romans 1:1-17 (continued from pg 1)

but additionally, as Paul prays, we also receive grace and peace from Him. This means we have the strength to fulfill His purpose, and we have an inner calm that enables us to face life's issues. We also have a fellowship with other believers, as Paul illustrates. He was thankful for these Romans because their faith in Christ was well-known throughout the world, and He prayed for them unceasingly, to which fact God would bear witness. This constant prayer also showed the sincerity of Paul's concern for these Christians. This was due partly to Paul's desire to visit Rome, which he had never been able to do, but which he felt was very important, since Rome was the capital of the empire. It was significant that God had established Christianity there even without Paul's involvement; nevertheless Paul wanted to gather fruit in Rome, as he had among the other Gentiles, and he wanted to impart to the Roman Christians some spiritual gift that would result in their encouragement. This referred to something the Spirit would do through him for the Roman Christians that would solidify their faith even more, rather than the exercise of one of the spiritual gifts listed in Romans 12. As Paul did this he was confident that he, in turn, would be en-

couraged by them. We are always encouraged by the growth we see in those we serve. Anticipating that some might question that Paul really wanted to come see them, he let them know that God had prevented him from doing this until now. But he wanted to be there and gather fruit among them, because he felt obligated to both God and mankind—whether civilized or uncivilized, or foolish or wise—to take the gospel to them. He was not ashamed of this "good news" because he knew it to be the power (literally "dynamite") of God for mankind's deliverance, or salvation—for both Jews and Gentiles (Greeks), as long as they believed it. The gospel brings about salvation because it reveals the righteousness of God, which is given on



**"Belief in this gospel message is the dynamite-like power that God uses to bring about salvation."**

the basis of faith, and not good works. As a person accepts God's gift of righteousness by faith, he or she receives more faith to continue on in the life of grace by faith. So the gospel is a message of salvation that is radically different from any other of the religions of the world, and Paul's life illustrates this gospel. As one who was running against God, because God had called him, he had become a slave of Christ for the gospel. His great passion was to impart this message, of which he was not ashamed, to others, to lead them to salvation, and to see them become established in this faith. He was also a thankful man who prayed constantly for those to whom he would minister. His life of complete service to God and others embodied the gospel. This gospel is about God's Son, Jesus, who was the Jewish Messiah (as David's descendent) and was shown to be the powerful Son of God by the resurrection. Belief in this gospel message is the dynamite-like power that God uses to bring about salvation. It reveals a different way of being right before God—by faith in His righteousness, rather than by one's good works. And, as this faith is exercised, it grows into greater faith. This is what Christianity is all about, "the real deal".

## Study Questions for Romans 1:18-2:16

*Paul begins to show that all mankind is trapped under the guilt of sin.*

1. Read Romans 1:18-20. What has God made plain to mankind (v20), and what have they done with this truth (v18-19)? What is God's resulting attitude (v18) and mankind's resulting condition (v20)?
2. From Romans 1:21-23 what has mankind done with the knowledge of God that they have (v21, 23)? How has this affected their thinking and ability to choose (v21-22)? How can we apply this today?
3. Look at Romans 1:24-25. How has God responded to mankind's refusal to accept the knowledge of Him (v24), and why (v25)? What "lie" has mankind believed (v25)? How do you see this today?



**"We have the strength to fulfill His purpose, and we have an inner calm that enables us to face life's issues"**

4. In Romans 1:26-27 what else has God given mankind over to (v26), how does it differ from the 1st, and in what 2 ways has this occurred (v26-27)? What has happened to the people that do this (v27)?

5. From Romans 1:28-32 to what 3rd thing has God given over mankind (v28), and with what result (v28-29)? What types of sins are listed in v29-31? What makes these actions even worse (v32)?

6. Looking at Romans 2:1-2 describe the person to whom Paul is now talking (v1). In what dilemma does this person find himself or herself (v1-2)?

7. Read Romans 2:3-4. What two mistaken thoughts do these people have (v3, 4)? What is God rich in towards mankind (v4), and what is this designed to do for us (v4)?

8. From Romans 2:5-6 how has mankind typically responded to God's kindness (v5), what is the result of this (v5), and why (v6)? What does this show about trying to get into heaven by good works?

9. Using Romans 2:7-11 describe the two groups, and their outcome (v7-8, 9-10). Explain how this relates to faith in Christ (see 1:16-17). What is the main point that the Holy Spirit, through Paul, is making (v11)?

10. According to Romans 2:12-13 what two types of people will try to get to heaven (v12)? What is God's absolute standard of righteousness (v13)? Can anyone do this on their own?

11. From Romans 2:14-16 what opportunity does everyone have (v13-14), and where does this potential come from (v15)? To what depth will God judge every man in the Day of Judgment (v16)?

12. Review Romans 1:18-2:16. What has mankind done to deserve the wrath of God (1:18-19, 21-23, 25, 28, 32; 2:1, 5, 8, 12)? What is the result of this wrath (1:24, 26, 27, 28; 2:2, 3, 5-6, 8-9, 16)?



## Memory Verse

**"...the kindness of God leads you to repentance."  
Romans 2:4**