

For the week of February 25-March 3, 2018

Based on Pastor Tucker's message from February 24-25

Romans 11: The Goodness of God's Grace

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE: *"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.'" –Romans 11:25-27*

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

The people of Israel sought God's righteousness earnestly. Unfortunately, many of them sought it wrongly. They thought if they worked hard enough at being good they could earn God's favor by impressing Him with their wondrous deeds. This attitude built up their pride and self-centeredness and made it impossible for them to recognize Christ and His free gift of salvation. By dismissing grace and clinging to self-righteousness they actually rejected the God they so wanted to please.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Have you ever been so driven to be a good Christian that you have diminished the role of God's grace in your life?
2. Does grace continually manifest itself in the life of a believer?
3. Is it possible for a believer to progress so far in his or her Christian walk that grace is no longer a vital part of their relationship with God? Why or Why not?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

Paul makes clear that, in God's sovereignty, He uses the stiff-necked Jews' persecution of early Jewish-Christians to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles. He also explains that the abundant life the Gentile believers experienced and their Spirit-filled ability to reflect the pure love of God could prove appealing to the Jews. Therefore, the Jews' lack of belief helped spread the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Gentile Christians' lives also inspired the Jews to desire a grace-filled relationship with God. The ever-powerful, wise, and good God used them all for His purposes.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Have you encountered people that seem like they are beyond the reach of God's salvation?
2. Have you ever seen God use the hardness of an unbeliever's heart to save someone who is open to His free gift of grace? If so, briefly describe the circumstances.
3. If you have any radical stories about the conversion of hard-hearted opponents of the Gospel, share them as time allows. What do they tell you about God's goodness and grace?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING (PERSONAL REFLECTION); Does your walk with Jesus reflect so much joy, peace and hope that non-believers wonder how to have a life like yours? In other words, has the Gospel so transformed you that non-believers envy *your* relationship with God?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that God would show believers how to live with an awareness of God's power and grace. He who has called us is faithful. He has an abundance of grace and good favor ready to empower us to do His will. Pray that we will step out of our comfort zones and live in such a radical way that others will seek the abundant life we possess because of our relationship with Jesus.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: *Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@calvaryboise.com with your insight.*

Weekly Prayer Requests

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” –Romans 11:33

We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense. We pray when there's nothing else we can do, but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all.

Most of us would prefer, however, to spend our time doing something that will get immediate results. We don't want to wait for God to resolve matters in His good time because His idea of 'good time' is seldom in sync with ours. –Oswald Chambers

Our Community Life Group:

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Our International Missions: Traveling Missionaries and Other Miscellaneous Needs

- Many members of our global missionary family are traveling. Please pray for traveling mercies for them:
 - Please pray for the Harrells who lead Calvary Rome, Italy. They are currently in Israel and ask that we pray for their protection, health, and grace as they travel and visit the Bible College.
 - Natalie Bridges will be heading back to the States this summer and asks that we pray for God's guidance timing and that she will be able to connect with friends and family as she shares with churches and individual Christians in the States.
 - Rachel Gaduno asks us to pray for the trip her church in Semilla de mostaza, Santa Monica, Mexico is taking to Oaxaca. Pray that the outreach is successful and that they bring encouragement to the church there.
 - Continue to pray for Becca Brown as she waits in Oregon to discover whether the nerve stimulator surgery has been successful. She still has a lot of pain. Pray that she soon gets relief.
- Saul and Angelica in Tepic, Mexico are in desperate need of a new place of their church to meet. Pray that God leads them to the right facility soon.
- The Peddicords run Haus Nazareth in Berlin and face all the challenges that come with living in a major city. Recently two of the students had bank cards and security codes stolen from the local malls. One of them leaves this week for a short stint in an Arab country and really needs to get the situation with the credit card cleared up before he goes. Pray for God's protection over that specific situation and everyone living in the house.

Our Local Ministry: Children's Ministry

- Please pray that we will have a consistent group of substitute teachers and assistants.
- We still have a need for coordinators. Please pray for the right people to fill these positions.
- Please pray for wisdom for Pastor Rhett and others in leadership. The number of kids is growing and therefore we need more volunteers to do an exceptional job of serving them.