

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Romans 3:9-20

Sunday, July 10, 2016

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What are some advantages of having the Bible to read?

We learn about the true God. We learn about what God requires of all people. We learn that we have disobeyed God and deserve God’s punishment. We learn that God sent Jesus to cleanse us from sin, save us from our sins, free us from the power of sin, and give us eternal life if we

believe in Him. We learn how to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. We learn what to teach others so they can be faithful followers of Jesus too.

2. What does it mean to be under the power of sin?

When we disobey God and His law we become slaves of sin. As an unbeliever in Jesus Christ, a person sins and is powerless to do right; the person is totally self-centered and selfish and seeks only their own pleasure without regard for others unless that regard benefits them in some way.

3. How do most people live when they refuse to repent and turn to God, preferring instead to live the way they want?

They remain under the power of sin and are slaves to sin whether they know it or not. As Paul showed from the Old Testament, sinners usually live (or go) from bad to worse if they do not repent of their sins and turn to Jesus Christ to save them. Living the way they want apart from God cannot bring them lasting happiness or true joy.

4. What did Paul say happens to someone when they turn away from God?

They become worthless and do no good. Ruin and misery accompany them either for themselves or those they bring ruin and misery to by deceit and even the shedding of blood.

5. Do you think sincere followers of Jesus Christ should still study the law of God? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes. The law of God is the law of love. God's law tells us to love God and others. Sometimes the law of God with the help of the Holy Spirit will show a follower of Jesus where they are still behaving in unloving and wrong ways so they can repent, ask Jesus for His forgiveness and help to overcome sin or bad habits and act with more love.

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