

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- As a child, were there any “perks” of belonging to your family?
- As a child, to whom did you compare yourself? Were you better or worse than them?

Read

- Romans 3:9-20

Observe

- The Jewish Christians in Rome apparently felt superior to the Gentile believers. But what does Paul say that they have in common? (vv.9-10)
- What does Paul say in verses 10-18 about human thought, motivation, speech, and actions? When you look at this list, how does it make you feel?
- What “positions of privilege” do people claim with respect to God; e.g., “I go to church every week,” or “My dad’s the pastor,” or “I’ve memorized fifty Bible verses?”

Apply

- From verse 20, would you say that more *descriptive* (like a doctor’s thermometer) or *prescriptive* (like medicine for a sick patient)? What is the purpose of the law?
- When did you first truly sense the reality of your sin and your need for God?
- What do chapters 2 & 3 of Romans say about the how and why we need to share the gospel with others?

Prayer

- *Admit* your sin and *confess* your attempts to justify yourself before God.
- *Ask* God for forgiveness and for the grace to live a truly righteous life.