

Please note: Because this was the initial study of Romans, the IHOP group spent time reviewing the overall picture by first looking at the Roman's Chart, and then carefully reading the contextual statement below to ground several of the Head Trip words into Gut Trip words. The words we studied are in bold red. Their analysis is written below.

Then, we examined the study sections I and II. Next week's study (# 1a) will be an expanded analysis of verses 18 thru 32. In part, this was done to deal with the controversial section in verses 26 – 28 and its potential (or misdirected?) impact on homosexuality.

BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE ROMANS CHART at www.triumc.org/web1/biblestudy.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

1 - Romans, "I believe by Paul" with commentary

Romans 1: 1 – 17, "Paul's Longing to Visit Rome"

The purpose of the Letter to the Romans is to develop a "Model for Living the Awakened/Transformed Life." Today's study is the 1st of 27 lessons.

A contextual statement:

The letter to Romans, ". . . is difficult to understand because it deals with objections and misunderstandings arising out of Jewish opposition which was part of Paul's situation but is not part of the situation today. . . [it is] no less than an exposition of God's **good news** (1:1) as he understood it, or rather **as he had experienced** it in the face of Jewish misunderstanding. . . The saving **righteousness** of God which Paul **discerned dynamically** at work in and since the **passion of Christ** has the whole of mankind (*sic*) in its purview. . . Man (*sic*) is in the **grip of sin** and cannot free himself; his **moral (read: human)** sense---law, conscience, categorical imperative---convicts him of sin but does not liberate him. But liberation is God's **gracious gift**. . . To respond to this love, **to open one's mind to it**, is what Paul calls faith. . . God's power deals with **the death that accompanies sin**. The **new life that Christ makes possible** is freed not only from sin but from death." ("The Letter of Paul to the Romans," *The Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary on the Bible*. (Ed.) Charles M. Laymon. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1971. 768, 769). **(Embolded words used to illuminate the experiential quality of Paul's work, thus supporting Gut Trip Analysis.)**

Good News -- The Good News is that, while we can be victimized, we are not victims but victors. The focus of Christianity is not on the crucifixion but on the resurrection.

Righteousness -- Literally, this word means "living in a right relationship with God." In Gut Trip Analysis, this word is experienced as living in harmony with the meaning and significance of life.

Passion of Christ -- The passion encompasses the Good Friday through Easter story. In Gut Trip Analysis, the phrase points to the demonstration of living the transformed life. Remember, the Passion of Christ does not alter or change our human situation; if we have one leg we do not grow a replacement. However, the Passion of Christ transforms everything. Our one-leggedness is no longer a problem but an opportunity to be the best one-legged dancer.

Grip of sin -- In Gut Trip Analysis, sin always is separation. The moral interpretation is doing bad things to other people results in separation. The human state of being interpretation is that we live in a state of separation because of our gender, race, culture,

education, etc. In this way, the Psalmist can declare we are sinner from birth. Also, this defends The Fall when it is appreciated that the Garden Story tells the tale of our becoming consciously human as females and males. We ARE sinners; i.e., our state of separation fails to fulfill our intended humanness as humane persons.

Moral -- Above, you are asked to substitute the word “human.” This word embraces the “human sense” of law, conscience, categorical imperative. . . “OK, I not sure what the writer of the material implies with “categorical imperative.”

Gracious gift -- In Gut Trip Analysis, the “gracious gift” is our freedom; i.e., we no longer are victims to our human situations, and we are free to accept the fact that God accepts us as we are. God’s acceptance is the demonstration of God’s gracious gift.

The death that accompanies sin -- We are in a state of death when we fail to fulfill our intended purpose of living At-One with neighbor, self and God as Perfect At-One-Ment. This, of course, is the formula that Jesus uses in the Great Commandment to love (to live At-One) with God, neighbor and self. In Gut Trip Analysis we call this living on vacation, or living in the spiritual desert.

The new life that Christ makes possible -- Our human situation is that The Way Life Is can be described as the human desert, or living on vacation. Our real home is living in At-One-Ment. Sometimes, this is described as living in the Spiritual Oasis. This is the “home” that is sung in many old Gospel songs, such as, “I must needs go home by the way of the Cross. There’s no other way but this.” Christ makes this possible through Jesus demonstration of the kind of death that is necessary. In order to experience the new life of living at home it is necessary for us to die to the old life of living on vacation in the spiritual desert. Baptism can begin this journey.

According to our Study Chart we are studying the first section of our chart called “I believe by Paul.” This material is a summary statement of Paul’s credo.

Read the assignment in one reading.

I. Vss. 1: 1 – 6 Carefully read this section to discern Paul’s credo of “This I Believe.” Paul makes at least three summary statements. What are they?

A. 1: 1 – 4: Christ (the Lord) demonstrates that he is **God’s son** by the **resurrection from the dead**. (Be careful to do Gut Trip Analysis on these words.)

B. 1: 5 -- The life of Christ is NOT a novel idea; that is, it is not a unique idea because it can be applied to all of us. This is a part of God’s plan to be realized through the covenant people, that is, through the Awakened people.

C. 1: 6 -- This experience of Christ announces the new mission to the Gentile world.

II. Read in a commentary about the historical significance of why Paul is writing this letter. Write a brief summary here.

Paul finds himself in a unique situation. The Church in Roman was established by someone other than himself. While in prison he is given the time to write a universal letter concerning the mission of the Christian Church to proclaim the Good News to the whole Roman world. To this end, Paul writes this letter as the model for living the awakened/transformed life. The format is striking and covers 1) The Human Situation; 2) God’s Response in Christ Jesus; 3) The Church Embraces Its Work.

All right folks. Talk to me.