

BECOMING LOVE

H O L I N E S S I N 2 0 2 0

Talk-It-Over: Week 2

IN THE CLEAR

Spend time going over questions and comments from the this week's sermon.

The Apostle Paul was a unique person, uniquely placed and uniquely gifted to speak directly to all factions within the early church. He was a Jew by birth, a Roman by citizenship, a Pharisee by training and a leader by disposition. He was born part way between Rome and Israel, both literally and figuratively. He came from a wealthy home and therefore had the best primary education then he went to Jerusalem to study under Gamaliel, one of the greatest Pharisees alive.

Despite his incredible privilege and education, Paul's Christian teaching and preaching was not to the liking of some of the Jewish leaders. In particular, he was often in conflict with pharisees, who objected to the idea that through Jesus, God would offer salvation freely. The pharisees had always taught that the only way to salvation was by living in complete obedience to the law of God.

Read:

Romans 3

Questions:

1. Have you ever pretended that you are more qualified, or are more experienced, than you actually are to get a job/promotion/boyfriend/girlfriend?
2. What difference does being a Jew make? (Romans 3:1-4) How do you think this idea was received by the pharisees and other religious leaders?
3. What does the Jewish history, recorded in the Old Testament, tell us about God? (Romans 3:5-8)
4. What does 'The Law' teach us about ourselves? (Romans 3:9-20)
5. The Salvation Army's statement of faith says that "we are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." What do you think this means?
6. What difference does it make to know you are "In the Clear."

Prayer Time:

Heavenly Father,

I was dead in my sins, totally ashamed of myself and hiding from you. There were times when I truly struggled to justify my own existence before you and others.

Thank you that you came and died on the cross to pay the price for my sin, and to break the power of sin and shame in my life by proving that our relationship is not based in any justification I might try to have, but in your love for me.

Help me God to never forget what I mean to you.

I pray that others come to know what they mean to you too.

AMEN

Further Reading:

Romans 4