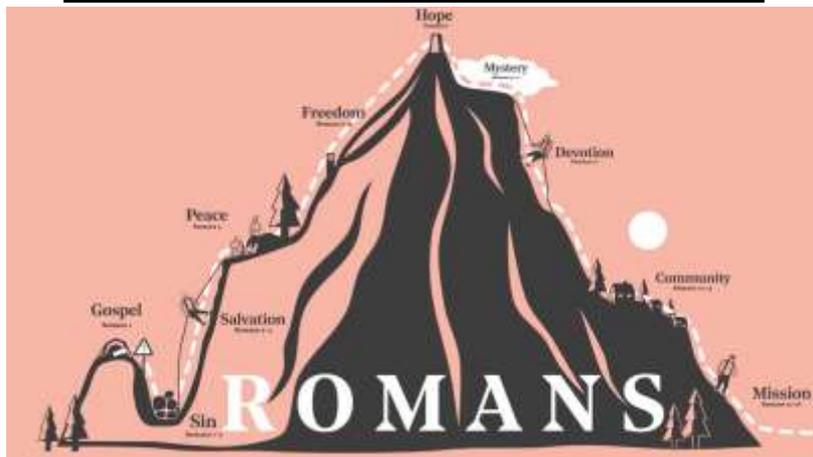


Romans Course – Hill Cliffe Study Guide



22 September 2024

SIN (Romans 1:18 – 3:23)

(If someone in your home group has questions from the sermon that they want to raise, deal with them first. Don't think every question has to be dealt with in the same detail!)

1. Paul puts his discussion on sin very near the beginning of his letter. Why do you think he did this and would you do the same thing.?
2. How do you define 'sin'? Do we, consciously or not, have an order for sins, the 'big' ones at the top and the 'little' ones at the bottom? Is this a good thing to do or not? Maybe talk about what your list looks like!
3. An African student friend once asked me, - because he really wanted to know – why British Christians thought it was so terrible that in some contexts, Christians who were in charge of the church money would take that money and lend it, or even give it, to members of their family who were in need. They saw that as stealing and completely unacceptable. Whereas the local people, where what is yours also belongs to your family, recognised that it was a problem but didn't really worry too much about it. Whereas in Britain, he was shocked that people thought nothing of breaking the law if they didn't like it. Even laws designed to keep people safe, like the speed limits, were OK to break. It was even seen as something to boast or laugh about and to feel upset and somehow wronged if they got fined! How would you have answered him?
4. Is breaking the law always sin, and if not, why not?
5. Is it important that we recognise ourselves as sinners, or once we also know we are forgiven sinners can we forget about the sinners part?!
6. Sometimes we think that giving offence must be avoided at all costs. Paul didn't seem to worry about that. What might be helpful and what unhelpful about that thought?
7. Talk about what things might tempt us into sin in the next week, and pray together about how we might resist those temptations and with God's help live the life as forgiven followers of Jesus that he intended us to.
8. Finish by giving thanks that although we are all sinners, our sins Christ's death on the cross means that our sins can be taken away and not counted against us!!