




TALKING POINTS WALKING POINTS

Leaders' Guide

2024.9.1



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Suggested Starter Question

- 1 How do you think most people would answer the question, "*Is mankind basically good?*"
How do **you** answer that question?

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation—*What do I see?*

- 2 Read Romans 3:9-12. What percentage of humanity do "Jews and Greeks" compose?
What does this passage say about **all** humanity . . . about **us**?
- 3 Read Matthew 5:48. **What** is God's standard for human behavior?
Read Proverbs 17:15. **What** is God's standard of justice?
- 4 Based on the biblical logic above, what percentage of humanity is in trouble with God?
Yet, what claim does Romans 8:1 make about those who are "in Christ"?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- 5 Read 1 Corinthians 15:22. Explain this reality: "**All persons are either 'in Adam' or 'in Christ.'**"
How does a person come to be "in Adam"? **How** does a person come to **be** "in Christ"?
- 6 Read 1 Corinthians 1:30. What does it mean that "**by God's doing**" a person is "in Christ"?
Read Acts 13:48. What does God do? What do we do?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- 7 Read Micah 7:18–19. **In what** does God find delight?
- 8 Read Ezekiel 33:11. In what does God find **no** delight?
- 9 **How** can one gain confidence that "no condemnation" awaits him on Judgment Day?
- 10 **How confident** are you that you are "in Christ"? How can others help you in this area?

- 1 This is not merely a “starter question”—use it to gain insight into how biblically informed your group is.
- 2 In biblical terminology, “Greeks” are all non-Jews, so “Jews and Greeks” = 100% of humanity! **All** humanity—including **us!**—are running away from God (and towards evil) as fast as we can. In the words of C. S. Lewis, “Man’s search for God is like the mouse’s search for the cat!”
- 3 God’s standard for human behavior is **absolute, 100% moral perfection for one’s entire life**. God’s standard of justice is to condemn **all** the guilty (and acquit **all** the innocent—of which there are none).
- 4 All of humanity is in deep trouble, condemned by God, deserving hell. Yet Romans 8:1 promises that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!
- 5 Adam and Christ (aka. the “last Adam”) are representative heads of the human race. Adam ruined all who are “in Adam” by his sin (Romans 5:12-18 is the key text for this doctrine). Christ redeems all who are “in Christ” by his substitutionary death in our place. All people are born into this world “in Adam”—and condemned to hell. Those who repent and believe in Christ are removed from Adam and united with Christ.
- 6 1 Corinthians 1:30 teaches that God alone places us “in Christ” (see John 1:11-13). Acts 13:48 teaches that God “appoints” individuals to eternal life, and as a result, we then believe.
- 7 God delights in showing mercy to wicked sinners such as us!
- 8 God finds no delight in the death of the wicked (even as he sends them to hell).
- 9 Ah—this is the key question! The Bible presents two bases for confidence that one is saved:
[1] The promises of God. If one truly repents and believes the promises, one is saved.
[2] All who truly are born again are given a new nature, which inevitably bears good fruit.

Key passages include: [1] 1 John 5:11-13 and [2] Matthew 7:17-23.
- 10 Allow your group members to answer before you do. Listen carefully, both for their degree of confidence and the **basis for** their confidence. Take note of any who need individual follow-up. If you are at all unprepared for those conversations, refer them to Pastors Doug, Dan or Daniel.

Sermon Outline Romans 8:1

A stunning declaration: “ _____ ! ”

Many of us feel judged by others—and by God. We sense a continual background of low-grade _____, punctuated by occasional flare-ups of _____.

To "condemn" means " _____ "

Two weeks ago Pastor Doug taught us from the account of “The Rich Young Ruler” (Mark 10:17-18):

A man ran up to Jesus and knelt before Him, and began asking Him,
“*Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*”

And Jesus said to him, “***Why do you call me 'good'? No one is good except God alone.***”

What Romans teaches us about our "goodness":

What Noah’s flood teaches us about God's wrath:

What Second Peter teaches us about the future:

We long for God to pronounce “***No condemnation!***” over us!

God blesses ***all*** mankind in ***many*** ways—but forgiveness is _____ his “default response” to sin!

Why study Romans 8? Because there is ***no other chapter in the Bible*** which...

- ...more fully explains _____ the world is broken and _____ it will be fixed or more clearly links our horrific suffering to the incomparable glory which it produces.
- ...better shows the _____ and _____ of our salvation—from predestination to glorification—and reveals the entire Trinity cooperating, coordinating and guaranteeing our victory.
- ...more _____ addresses our struggles for assurance that we are lavishly loved by God.

Application-Challenge:

Don't miss it!

The high point of the entire Bible!



Romans 8

Starts in
10 days!

Theologians consider Romans chapter eight to be the high point of the entire Bible.

Join other TCCers as together we scale the heights of this breathtaking passage.

September 11 thru December 12.

Who? all TCC adults

What? a joyous exploration of the "best chapter in the Bible"

Why? because every Christian needs the encouragement of these stunning truths!

When? Wednesday nights (6³⁰-8⁰⁰pm) **or** Thursday mornings (9³⁰-11⁰⁰am)

Where? TCC campus

How? simply **scan here** for complete info⇒



Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*Psalm 34 offers a lively, persuasive invitation to the joy of forgiveness.
Let's learn about Yahweh's invitation to escape condemnation...*

Monday— Look at Psalm 34:1-3.

- **How often** is Yahweh's praise on the psalmist's lips (v. 1)? How often on **yours**?
- Does your soul **boast** in Yahweh (v. 2a)? What are some examples of you "bragging on God"?
- What impact do **you** have on the humble (v. 2b)?
- When was the last time you invited someone to worship with you (v. 3, *cf.* v. 8)?

Tuesday— Look at Psalm 34:4-7.

- **Why** was the psalmist so eager to invite others to worship with him (v. 4-6)?
- The Hebrew word for "fear" in v. 4 is very strong—akin to "terror" (different than the reverential awe spoken of in v. 7 & 9). What's the most terrifying situation the Lord has delivered you from?
- Does your countenance sufficiently reflect the magnitude of God's deliverance on your behalf (v. 6)?
- How consistently do you realize God's providential care (v. 7; *cf.* Hebrews 1:14)?

Wednesday— Look at Psalm 34:8-10.

- Have you "taken refuge" in God (v. 8b)? How often, how consistently do you take refuge in him?
- Is provision **for all** a foregone conclusion (compare v. 10a and 10b)?
- Do you call others to fear (v. 9a) the God who "provides" and "defends" you?

Thursday— Look at Psalm 34:11-14.

- Have you **learned** to fear God (v. 11)? Who are you **teaching** to fear God (v. 11)?
- We know **what you want**—it's described in v. 12; but **how to get it** is in v. 13-14!
List what you must, and must not, do if you wish to "have a long life and see many blessings".
Which of those actions are you consistently doing? Which ones are you not?

Friday— Look at Psalm 34:15-18.

- What kind of person does God keep his eye on and listen attentively to (v. 15)?
Are you that kind of person? How do you know?
- What kind of person is God actively opposed to (v. 16; *cf.* James 4:1-10)?
- Yes, being "troubled, brokenhearted and crushed" isn't fun—but what's the upside (v. 17-18)?
(Would you rather the experience of the materially-blessed evildoer (v. 16; *cf.* Psalm 73)?

Saturday— Look at Psalm 34:19-22.

- The stakes are high: God's **blessings—and curses!**—extend beyond "the here and now", culminating in either **eternal acquittal or eternal condemnation** (v. 21b, 22b)!
Read Matthew 25:46 and 2 Thessalonians 1:5–12 for the New Testament's take on this topic.