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## Opium of the People: Romans 2:12-3:20

Tony Murrow – May 15, 2022

### *Small Group Discussion Questions*

#### **Getting Started**

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion.  
Expect God to move through your time together!

#### **Pacing Your Group**

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

#### **Scripture Reading**

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

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#### **Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?***

**Take some time to look up and read: Romans 2:12-3:20**

1. What big ideas does Paul work to communicate in these verses about:  
- God’s judgement                      - The purpose of God’s law                      - God’s faithfulness                      - Our righteousness

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#### **Reflection and Discussion: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?***

**Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life**

2. Paul explained to the Jews that they needed to teach *themselves*, not others, by their law. They knew the law so well that they had learned how to excuse their own actions while criticizing others. But the law is more than legalistic minimum requirements – it is a guideline for living according to God’s will. It is also a reminder that we cannot please God without a proper relationship to him. These verses aim to call out religious hypocrisy.  
- Why is it so easy for Christians to act hypocritical? What is the antidote for hypocrisy?
3. Paul contends that everyone stands guilty before God. He has dismantled the common excuses of people who refuse to admit they are sinners:  
- “There is no God” or “I follow my conscience” (1:18-32)  
- “I’m not as bad as other people” (2:1-16)  
- “I’m a church member” or “I’m a religious person” (2:17-29)

No one will be exempt from God’s judgment on sin. Every person must accept that he or she is sinful and condemned before God. Only then can we understand and receive God’s wonderful gift of salvation.

- Which of these “excuses” or other “excuses” have you been tempted to entertain over the course of your spiritual journey? How did God expose these “excuses” in your life?

4. Read these Pastor’s Challenge questions, and share with the group what is getting your attention:  
- Does your faith feel like rest or like work?  
- Is your faith making you humble or proud?  
- Is your faith producing the fruit of the spirit?

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#### **Surrender: Responding to God’s voice.**

5. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**\*\* Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today \*\***

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**We’re here!**

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!  
Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

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