

**The Old Rugged Cross:  
The Death of Jesus in the Letters of Paul  
Session 2 – Jesus' Death and Human Sinfulness  
January 28, 2008**

OPEN:

In groups of two or three, answer the following: Tell of a time when you went to a church and you knew it could not be your church. What happened? What was wrong or missing? Be prepared to share with the entire group not a specific story but what was missing.

REVIEW:

According to Paul, who was the major player in the death of Christ?  
Why was this done?

STUDY:

In the first three chapters of the book of Romans, Paul points out the starkness of the human condition. First, the sins of Gentiles, those who do not have the promises of God, are pointed out. Next, Paul turns his eyes to the sins of the Jews, who have no reason to condemn others for they too are sinners. His point is that all are enslaved to sin, and cannot free themselves.

Read Romans 3:21-26. What is the human condition?

What is the solution to this problem?

Who is justified by this action?

What does redemption mean in this context?

What does Paul mean by the words "sacrifice of atonement through his blood?"

What does it mean the God "passed over sins previously committed?"

In Romans 4, Paul argues that Abraham was made right with God through his faith prior to his keeping the command to be circumcised. This meant that Abraham's circumcision and obedience to the commands of God were in response to the grace he had already received.

Read Romans 4:22-25. How is righteousness reckoned to us?  
How, then, are we like Abraham?

Why was Jesus handed over to death, according to verse 25?

What does this mean?

How does this last verse affect the way we view faith?

Read Romans 6:1-11. What objection to justification by grace is raised here?

What is Paul's response?

Why?

How is this different from the statement, "Christ died for our sins?"

Does this mean we will never sin again?

What view of sin does Paul have here?

What is promised after a life of living freely with God, and dead to sin?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 6:2. When Christ died for all, what happened to us?

How do we now regard others?

What did God do not just for us but for the world through the death of Christ?

What particular task has God given to us, according to verse 18?

What does this mean?

What does verse 21 mean to you?

If Christ has destroyed sin, why is the exhortation in 6:1-2 necessary?

#### REFLECT

When asked the question, "How is Jesus' death for my sins?"