

Romans
How a Life Crumbles- Week #1
Small Group Notes
February 6 and 9

Introduction:

When we look around in the world, what evidence do we see that we live in a fallen world? On the other hand, what evidence do you see that God is still at work?

How does the condition of the world show us our need for Christ? What are things that try to step in and provide the answer instead of Jesus?

In our study we are going to see how apart from Christ, people are guilty of sin and in need of God's salvation. We are also going to see how so often we may want to suppress this truth, just like trying to push a beach ball under the water, yet it still holds true.

Discuss:

1. Read Romans 1:18-20

- Suppress the truth
 - o Suppression is not the same as ignorance
 - o Suppression says I know but I don't want to know
 - o Man's problem with God is not so much about intellect but about idols.

What do these verses teach us about God and His relationship with mankind?

Three reasons for the existence of God:

- Creation screams Creator
- Design screams Designer
- Our feelings scream a moral law Giver

**What in nature and creation give us glimpses of God's love and grace?
How can these glimpses point us to Him? (Use the three reasons for the existence of God as hints.)**

2. Read Romans 1:21-23

- Truth suppressed always increase personal darkness.
 - o Our lives begin to crumble when we fail to recognize the present reality of the wrath of God.
 - o Truth suppressed dims God's wisdom in my life

According to this passage, what happens when we don't acknowledge God's authority in our lives?

Why can it seem easy for people to trade God's truth for the lies of the enemy? What are ways that we can respond in these moments?

3. Read Romans 1:24-28

- Truth suppressed dims God's restraining power in my life (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

What two wrong actions did the people take in verse 25?

As a consequence for people's failure to accept the truth, how did God respond (vv. 24,26,28)? How can this be a hard message for people to accept?

4. Read Romans 1:29-32, Romans 2:1

- Truth suppressed keeps us choosing binoculars and not mirrors
 - o Binoculars cause us to forfeit grace while the mirror allows us to receive grace.

How did the people about whom Paul wrote show they were ignoring God's verdict?

What have been some times that you chose the binoculars of looking at others instead of seeing yourself in the mirror?

Reflection:

What truth are you trying so hard to suppress?

How seriously have you ever contemplated the present reality of the wrath of God?

What is something from today's discussion that has helped you to see the power of the gospel more clearly than before?

Do:

What hope could you offer one who has spent a lifetime suppressing the knowledge of God and failing to worship Him? Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

In what ways can we be more alert to the sin in our lives and more committed to rejecting sinful ways of living? How can we encourage one another in this pursuit?