**Small Group Material - Romans 5 & 6 (Ch. 2)**

**The Power of God; to judge impartially and to know our motivations**

**Welcome**

When you were young, which of your parents was more strict, merciful, consistent?

**Worship**

Thank God that Jesus Christ has taken God’s wrath and anger on the cross. Listen to ‘Jesus Christ I think upon your sacrifice, you became nothing’. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebFji3n0cCA

While it is being sung, write on your piece of paper those things that God has delivered you from. Then tear up the pieces of paper and put them in a bin (if you have a fire, put them on the fire). You could then sing the song together.

**Word**

Read Romans chapter 2.

1. In what ways does God’s kindness (v4) lead to repentance? What are the consequences of not accepting his kindness (v5)?

2. By what standards will God judge people in the final judgement (v6-13, 16)? How do you reconcile these standards with the theme of Romans which is ‘justification by faith’ rather than by ‘good works’?

3. In God’s judgement, what is the reward, v7, and the punishment,v8-9? Who is ‘righteous’ in God’s sight, v12-13?

*For discussion, do you think it is easier for someone brought up in a Christian home to appreciate God’s grace or someone who has had no religious background?*

*As you grow older, does your appreciation of God’s grace grow stronger or are you more likely to take it for granted? Are you more likely to get upset by the immaturity of new Christians in lifestyle issues (eg sex, drink, money) or do you get upset at those who get upset at such issues?*

4. v.17 - 29. *In the rest of the chapter, Paul goes on to argue that it is no good having the outward marks of faith unless it is accompanied with an inner change - what he calls ‘circumcision of the heart’.* How is this ‘circumcision of the heart’ acquired and what does it mean, v29, (cf Deut 10.16, 30.6, Jer 4.4, 9.25-26)?

**Witness**

Pray about your attitude to non-Christians. Pray against judgementalism. Pray for real holiness among Christians; that in our church and home groups we will be distinctive and if you get the time, pray for the judiciary and for the police.