

# THE PASTOR'S ESSENTIALS®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

<sup>13</sup> "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. <sup>14</sup> BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.

MATTHEW 7:13-14

**es-sen-tials** (ĭ-sĕn'shĕlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

## *The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans*

*A BIBLE STUDY*

SESSION TWO

*Romans 1:18-2:16*

*Questions for Session Two*

1. Vv. 18-20 clearly state how God has revealed his *eternal power* and *divine nature* to humanity. What human *godlessness* and *wickedness* are prevalent in the twenty-first century that incur the wrath of God? What excuse do we have? How has our so-called *wisdom* become our Achilles' heel?
  
2. With reference to vv. 21-25 explain how humanity has spiraled downward because of our turning away from God. Make a list of several human *individual* and *societal* twenty-first century sinful desires. How are these desires different from those of the first century? Name several that have become commonplace today.

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3. Explain what is meant in vv. 26-27. What does Paul mean by “the due penalty for their perversion?” What is the basic difference between a proclivity toward a behavior and the actual acting out of that tendency? How should the Christian community express love to those persons described in vv. 26-27?
  
4. Vv. 28-32 teach us how God has given humanity over to a depraved mind. Explain the human will. Elaborate on how we exercise our freedom to choose. How do we view the sins expressed in vv. 29-31? How do we reward those persons, who participate in these sins? How do we hold them accountable?
  
5. Ch. 2, vv. 1-4 teach us about human judgment. How have you been guilty of human judgment? What does Scripture teach the reader about human judgment? How can Christians, as well as the greater Christian community, participate in the *kindness*, the *tolerance*, and the *patience* of God’s righteousness, without ignoring God’s truth?
  
6. Vv. 5-6 teach that God’s wrath is being stored up against us. What human behaviors are causing this? What can we do to avoid God’s wrath? Are the sins expressed in ch. 1, vv. 29-31 anything for you to be concerned about, or is Paul referring to someone else? How often do we hear God’s Word expressed and we think or say? “That’s not me!” *or* “He’s not talking about me!”

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7. V. 11 teaches that God does not show favoritism. Explain this concept considering our individual deeds, as well as our social status, country of origin, religion, etc. To what was Paul referring in v. 11?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Explain the difference in *hearing* the law and *obeying* the law, vv. 12-13. How is Paul referring to the basic difference between the Jews and the Gentiles as God's Word is revealed to each of them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What does Paul mean in vv. 14-15 regarding how the Gentiles know the law, versus how the Jews know the law? Who had the law given to them? How did God deliver the law differently to the Jews than to the Gentiles?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. When will we be judged? By whom will we be judged? What have we done in secret, or what do we continue to do in secret that God knows? What do we continue to deny regarding our own lives and our human sinfulness? What is God's ultimate plan for all humanity regarding the sin, which separates us now and will separate us from God for eternity?

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