

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Facilitator: One way to encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group is to ask them to **Find and Read** Scripture referenced with the questions.

CONNECT Group study questions for September 24, 2017

Title: When Good is Not Good Enough—Romans 2:1-16

Read: Romans 2:1-16

Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. 3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to each person according to his deeds: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God. 12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; 13 for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. 14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or

else defending them, 16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Review: Read through the outline from Pastor Peppy's sermon: **When Good is Not Good Enough**, and share what God revealed to you from the message. Take time to voice your concerns and questions.

Question: I think we can all agree that knowing the difference between good and bad, or good and evil, is important. **Find and Read:** Isaiah 5:20. Share your thoughts about the good and bad (evil) in American society today.

Question: Pastor Peppy noted that *our* judgments of what constitutes both "good" and "bad" are always relative and self-centered. **Facilitator:** Ask group members to **Find and Read:** Isaiah 64:6; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23.

What is *God's* judgment of what constitutes good and bad? Find your answer in Romans 3:21-26.

Question: In last week's lesson (Romans 1), the Apostle Paul explained how the gentiles (those without the Law) will be judged by conscience. In this week's lesson (Romans 2:1-16), he explains how the moralists (those with the Law) will be judged by the Law.

How will our friends, neighbors and most Americans be judged?

How will each of you Connect Group members be judged? **Facilitator:** Be sure your group members understand that if they are positioned "in Christ," they are not judged by the Law or by conscience, but are saved from judgment by faith in Christ. **Find and Read:** Ephesians 2; Revelation 11:15.

What would you say?: I posted on Facebook an article by Anne Graham Lotz (<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/09/12/anne-graham-lotz-is-god-speaking-through-irma-harvey-and-earthquake.html>) about Elijah's not finding God in the earthquake, wind or fire, but in a still small voice (1 Kings 19). She compared the story to recent disasters meant to get our attention and listen to what God has to tell us.

An FB friend replied: *I find the suggestion [insulting] that a god, anybody's god could be associated with raising havoc, killing and causing so*

much pain, destruction and hard times by virtue of fire, floods and hurricanes for the sake of bringing attention to himself and his teachings. Where does he (God) draw the line, will he next bolster ISIS and Rocket Man? This authors (sic) suggestion is insulting to christians (sic), people of other faiths as well as those of us of no particular beleief (sic).

In light of Romans 1 (last week's lesson) and our lesson this week in Romans 2:1-16, how would you answer him?