

CONNECT Group study questions for July 1, 2018

Title: "Deal or No Deal"

1. In his sermon introduction, Pastor Peppy answers the most important question raised by Romans 9: "How do we know who is chosen and who is not?" What answer does Romans 9 give to that question?

Read Romans 9:30-32.

2. According to Paul, why are Jews "lost" and not among the elect?

3. Pastor Peppy said that religion can't save us. The implications are that we can't earn our way to Heaven or to God's love. Are there times you live this way? How does striving to be good enough to please God make you feel during those times? How does Scripture help fight this thinking?

4. Romans 9:30-33 is Paul's conclusion to Romans 9, and it is his thesis for this chapter. Paul is answering a two-fold question: "Is it fair that Israel, who tried so hard for so long to please God, missed God's grace because they did not seek it by faith? Is it fair that the gentiles who didn't try for one day to please God by obeying the Law of Moses found God's grace by faith?" How does Paul answer those questions? Is election fair?

Read Romans 9:32-33.

5. Why does Paul (quoting Isaiah) refer to Christ as a "stumbling stone" and "a rock of offense"?

6. "Religion says try; the gospel says trust." "Religion says my way is the right way; the gospel says Christ is *the* way." Peppy stated many other comparisons between religion and the gospel. Can you think of more differences? How does this comparison apply even in the life of a Christian?