**Small Group Material - Romans 3 (Ch 1.13 -17)**

**The Power of God: for the salvation of everyone who believes**

**Welcome**

Who is the most unlikely/unusual Christian you have ever met? Why?

**Worship**

Turn up Psalm 46. Read it together.

The words of many hymns contain incredible truths about God.

Listen to ‘A mighty fortress is our God’.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XUYZoguhEQ

Turn it into worship, praise and thanksgiving.

**Word**

1. v.14. Because he was an apostle (one who is sent), Paul felt obligated to preach the Good News to everyone. Whom do you have the greatest opportunity of reaching with the gospel? What steps can you take to reach them?
2. Paul says that we can be eager to ‘preach the gospel’ or be ashamed of it (v.15-16). What might lead us to adopt one attitude or the other?
3. In v.16, Paul describes the gospel as ‘the power of God for salvation’. How have you seen this power demonstrated in your life or in the lives of others?
4. Martin Luther wrote that v.17 became to him ‘a gateway to heaven’. What is so significant about the ideas in this verse?
5. What do you think it means to live ‘by faith’ (v17)? In what areas do you struggle to live by faith?

**Witness**

After Easter we will be launching our next Alpha Course in the Parish Centre. (We’re planning to have a rather special guest at our launch!)

Write down on a piece of paper the names of three people that you would like to invite to come to the launch.

Then get into groups of 3, and pray for each others friends (That should be 9 in all).

Pray that you will see them, serve them, love them and when you come to make your invitation that they will say ‘yes’!

1. A mighty Fortress is our God,

A Bulwark never failing;

Our Helper He amid the flood

Of mortal ills prevailing:

For still our ancient foe

Doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and power are great,

And, armed with cruel hate,

On earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,

Our striving would be losing;

Were not the right Man on our side,

The Man of God’s own choosing:

Dost ask who that may be?

Christ Jesus, it is He;

Lord Sabaoth His Name,

From age to age the same,

And He must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,

Should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God hath willed

His truth to triumph through us:

The Prince of Darkness grim,

We tremble not for him;

His rage we can endure,

For lo! his doom is sure,

One little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers,

No thanks to them, abideth;

The Spirit and the gifts are ours

Through Him who with us sideth:

Let goods and kindred go,

This mortal life also;

The body they may kill:

God’s truth abideth still,

His Kingdom is forever.

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