

Week 2

Interpretation Exercise (Romans 1:18-2:16)

1. Prepare (or find!) a **brief outline** of Romans.
2. **Summarise the argument** of Romans 1:18-2:16 in one or two sentences. How does it fit into Paul's overall argument? Do other parts of Romans shed light on its meaning?
3. Identify **difficult** and **important words** and **issues** in the text for further study. (As part of this process, be sure to include important differences among the translations.)
4. Identify a **self-contained group of verses** from this passage from which you might want to give a teaching or sermon. What evidence can you show that you have properly **identified its boundaries**?

INTERPRETATION PROCESS

1. GETTING AN OVERVIEW

□ **Whole work**

- Read the whole book!
- Review several translations
- Literature type (genre)
- Author
- Intended audience
- Purpose
- Theme
- Major issues
- Outline

□ **Passage's place in work**

- Contribution to argument
- Contribution from work

□ **Boundaries of text**

- Transitional words
- Theme, subject changes
- Structural clues
- Rhetorical clues

□ **Issues for study**

- Words
- Difficult, 'significant' issues

Summary of Group Discussion - Week 1

1. Overview of whole work and passage
 - Standard letter format from that time period
 - 'Executive summary' of the epistle
 - Paul's calling and credentials
 - Themes:
 - i. The Gospel ('good news')
 - ii. Faith, not works of the law
 - iii. Grace
2. History and culture
 - Jews and Gentiles in the church - differences in approach
 - No written gospel yet - Paul was talking about 'good news'
3. Tools
 - Overview
 - Placement of text
 - Plain/literal meaning
 - Holy Spirit
4. Further study
 - Words
 - i. Slave
 - ii. Apostle
 - iii. Saints
 - iv. Declared with power
 - v. Power
 - vi. Obedience that comes from faith
5. Useful reference books
 - John Stott commentary
 - Wycliffe commentary
 - Study Bible