

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: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

CONNECT Group study questions for October 8, 2017

Title: The Prosecution Rests—Romans 3:9-20

*But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes
Indeed you're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody —Bob Dylan*

Read: Romans 3:9-20

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written,

*“There is none righteous, not even one;
11 There is none who understands,
There is none who seeks for God;
12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless;
There is none who does good,
There is not even one.”
13 “Their throat is an open grave,
With their tongues they keep deceiving,”
“The poison of asps is under their lips”;
14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”;
15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood,
16 Destruction and misery are in their paths,
17 And the path of peace they have not known.”
18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh

will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Review: Read through the outline from Pastor Peppy's sermon, *The Prosecution Rests*, and share what God revealed to you from the message.

Read: Genesis 4:7

7 If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Read: John 8:34

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

Question: Whose slave are you? When sin is "crouching at the door," what do you do to "master it" and not become enslaved? Share your experiences with the group.

Question: Pastor Peppy showed us how the Bible is like a mirror that reveals us just as we are.

Are verses 10 through 18 of our passage in Romans 3 a reflection of our world? Our society?

To what extent do they reflect you as you were before you came to faith in Christ? What do you see in these verses that reflect you as you are now?

Read: Romans 7:21 through Romans 8:8

Question: The Apostle Paul's 13-count indictment levied against us is divided into three categories: Character, Conversation, and Conduct. The verdict is final—Guilty!

In what ways do you identify with Paul's struggle to serve the law of God while his flesh serves the law of sin: In your character? In your conversation? In your conduct?

What does it mean to "set your mind" (Romans 8:1-8) and how does that determine who you will serve?