**Romans Bible Study Questions: Chapter 1**

1. In 1.1-7, as Paul addresses the first recipients, people whom he has never met, what does he emphasize as he introduces himself?
2. According to v. 8-15, why does Paul desire to visit the Christians of Rome? What could be meant by the “spiritual gift” or “spiritual blessing” (*charism*) he mentions in v 11?
3. What is meant by the “righteousness of God” that the gospel reveals (v 16-17)?
4. Discuss the relationship between the “righteousness of God” and the “ungodliness and unrighteousness of men” (v 18-32).
   1. How much can be known about God through natural revelation (e.g. Creation)? What cannot be known through these means (sometimes called common grace)?
   2. What can Paul mean by “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven” (v 18)? What is the relationship between the “wrath of God” and “he gave them up” in v. 24, 26, 28?
   3. What do you notice about the process of being “given over to passions”?
5. In v 28 and 32, Paul states that people knew the “righteousness of God” but did not hold on to it. Given the flow of argument, why did they not hold on to knowledge of God?
6. What does this chapter have to say to the evolutionary theory of religious development – that people moved slowly from worship of many gods (polytheism) to the worship of one (monotheism)?