



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 10:14-21
- Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25
- Philippians 2:5-11

Title:

DISCRIMINATING QUESTIONS

- Discrimination
- Critical Inquiries

SEED:

"But **they have not all obeyed the gospel**. For Isaiah says, "Lord, **who has believed our report?**" So then **faith comes by hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God**. But I say, **have they not heard?** Yes indeed: "**Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.**" Rom. 10:16-18 NKJV

"So God **created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them**. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..." Genesis 1:27-28 NKJV

FRUIT:

"For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by **the things that are made**, even His eternal power and **Godhead**, so that they are **without excuse**," Romans 1:20 NKJV

"**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, **and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man**, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those **in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth**, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Romans is a letter filled with questions. Right from the start of exploration into this deep "theological treatise," we discovered that ninety-two times Paul asked a question. As any good teacher should, Paul used questions to stir the imagination of his readers and provoke contemplation. It is a powerful tool to engage with people. Questions offer a significantly more effective method of interaction than flooding a teaching with statements. It's the perfect way to advance a conversation, discern someone's position, determine their current level of understanding, share new information, impart knowledge, influence thought, and challenge

disagreement. Questions must, however, be intentional, as both quality and delivery will determine their effectiveness.

In just eight verses, Paul asks seven discriminating questions: How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach unless they are sent? Lord, who has believed our report? Have they not heard? And, did Israel not know?

As we venture deeper still, we might add seven additional critical inquiries: Who can be sent? What is the message? How will they know the report is true? What have they already heard? Who will provoke who to jealousy? Who will listen and obey? And, why do we keep preaching? There are many questions to answer and this one thing we know... good questions are an excellent way to reverse discrimination. How so? Most see discrimination from a perspective of prejudice; Paul sees it as a path to holiness.

DISCRIMINATION

1. Reverse Discrimination: from a form of prejudice to a path to holiness.

A. The Lord does discriminate between Egypt and Israel...

(1) Discrimination

(a) The recognition and understanding of the difference between one thing and another:

differentiation, distinction, discernment, judgment, perception.

1. "Then Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and **all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die**, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. {7} But **against none of the children of Israel** shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that **the Lord does make a difference** [*distinction, differentiation, judgment*] **between the Egyptians and Israel.**" Exodus 11:4-7 NKJV

(2) Holiness

(a) Be Holy for God is Holy

1. "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but **as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy** [*Leviticus 19:2*]." I Peter 1:13-16 NKJV
2. "But you are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood, a holy nation**, His own **special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who

had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy [*Hosea 1:6, 9; 2:23*]." I Peter 2:9-10 NKJV

3. **'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.'**" Leviticus 19:2 NKJV
4. "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and **keep My covenant**, then you shall be a **special treasure** to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**" These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.'" Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV
5. "Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then **I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!'** And they shall say, 'You are my God!' '" Hosea 2:23 NKJV

CRITICAL INQUIRIES

1. Questions: more effective than statements...

A. Three Leading Questions

(1) We previously solidified to what we are confessing when we call on the name of the Lord .

(a) Now we must identify who can and will bring such a message to the world.

1. "**How then shall they call on Him** in whom they have not believed? And **how shall they believe in Him** of whom they have not heard? And **how shall they hear without a preacher?**" Romans 10:14 NKJV

B. How shall they preach unless they are sent?

(1) Who can be sent and what is the message?

(a) This is the best news anyone could hope to bring to the world.

1. "And how shall they preach **unless they are sent?** As it is written: "How beautiful are **the feet of those** who preach **the gospel of peace**, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15 NKJV
2. "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ and Him crucified.**" I Corinthians 2:2 NKJV
3. "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**" Eph. 4:13 NKJV
4. "John the Baptist came preaching... **Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**" Matthew 3:12 NKJV
5. "Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" Matthew 4:17 NKJV
6. "Y'shua said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you.**" Luke 17:20-21 NKJV

7. *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done **On earth as it is in heaven.**"* Mat. 6:10 NKJV
8. *"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And **the government will be upon His shoulder.** And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end...**"* Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJV
9. *"If you love Me, **keep My commandments.**"* John 14:15 NKJV
10. *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**"* II Corinthians 3:18 NKJV
11. *"And this **gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, **and then the end will come.**"* Matthew 24:14 NKJV
12. *"How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings **good news, Who proclaims peace,** Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*" Isaiah 52:7 NKJV
13. *"Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who **brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace!** O Judah, **keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows.** For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off."* Nahum 1:15 NKJV
14. *"and that He may send **Jesus Christ,** who was preached to you before, **whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things,** which God has **spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets** since the world began."* Acts 3:20-21 NKJV
15. *"Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet Before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."* Malachi 4:5 NKJV
16. *"For the earnest expectation of the creation **eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**"* Romans 8:19 NKJV
17. *"But this Man, **after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever,** sat down at the right hand of God, **from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.**"* Hebrews 10:12-13 NKJV
18. *"For the **creation was subjected to futility,** not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; **because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.** For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together **until now.**"* Romans 8:20-22 NKJV
19. *"So God created man **in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it...**"* Genesis 1:27-28 NKJV

20. *"that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one:** I in them, and You in Me; **that they may be made perfect in one,** and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."* John 17:21-23 NKJV
21. *"God created man in His own image; **in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Now, be fruitful and multiply."*
22. *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And **he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers,** Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."* Malachi 4:5-6 NKJV
23. *"For **by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God,**" Ephesians 2:8 NKJV*
24. *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith...**" II Peter 1:5 NKJV*
25. *"Therefore, **having been justified by faith,** we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV*
26. *"Imitate me, just as I also **imitate Christ.**" I Corinthians 11:1 NKJV*
27. *"But what does it say? **"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:8-9 NKJV*

C. Lord, who has believed our report?

- (1) What is the message?
 - (a) How will they know the report is true?
 1. *"But **they have not all obeyed the gospel.** For Isaiah says, **"Lord, who has believed our report?"** So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" Romans 10:16-17 NKJV*
 2. *"Who **has believed our report?** And to **whom has the arm of the Lord** been revealed?" Isaiah 53:1 NKJV*
 3. *"Thus also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** But someone will say, **"You have faith, and I have works."** Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**" James 2:17-18 [see 14-24] NKJV*
 4. FREE *"For **by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God,**" Ephesians 2:8 NKJV*

5. COST *"not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."* Ephesians 2:9-10 NKJV
6. *"And whoever does not **bear his cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and **count the cost**..."* Luke 14:27-28 NKJV
7. *"So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all** that he has cannot be My disciple."
" Luke 14:33 [see 25-35] NKJV*
8. *"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. **He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**"* 1 John 2:3-4 NKJV
9. *"Who **has believed our report?**"* Isaiah 53:1
10. *...If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!... Would it not be **better for us to return to Egypt?**" ... "Let us select a leader **and return to Egypt.**"* Numbers 14:2-4 NKJV
11. *"Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**"* James 2:18

D. Have they not heard?

- (1) What have they already heard?
 - (a) Plausible deniability; I did not know!
 1. *"But I say, **have they not heard?** Yes indeed: **"Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world [Ps. 19:4]."**"* Romans 10:18 NKJV
 2. *"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. ... "Lord, **who has believed our report?**"* Romans 10:16
 3. *"**The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.** Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. {4} **Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.** In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is **like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber**, And rejoices like a **strong man to run its race.** Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. **The law of the Lord** is perfect, converting the soul; **The testimony of the Lord** is sure, making wise the simple; **The statutes of the Lord** are right, rejoicing the heart; **The commandment of the Lord** is pure, enlightening the eyes; **The fear of the Lord** is clean, enduring forever; **The judgments of the Lord** are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. **Moreover by them Your***

servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? **Cleanse me** from secret faults. **Keep back** Your servant also from **presumptuous sins**; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight,** O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." Psalms 19:1-14 NKJV

4. "For **since the creation** of the world His **invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,** even His eternal power and **Godhead,** so that they are **without excuse,** because, although **they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God,** nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Romans 1:20-21 NKJV
5. "Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image,** according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply;** fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV
6. "And the Lord God said, "**It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.**"" Genesis 2:18 NKJV
7. "Then **the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman,** and He **brought her to the man.** And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.'" Genesis 2:22-23 NKJV
8. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother **and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.** And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:24-25 NKJV
9. "And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them **at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said,** 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? **So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.**"" Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV
10. "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?**" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of

the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, **'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it [Note the self-deception: God NEVER says anything about touching the fruit], lest you die.'** " Then the serpent said to the woman, **"You will not surely die.** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV

E. Did Israel not know?

(1) Who will provoke who to jealousy?

(a) How could they not know these things?

1. "But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will **provoke you** to jealousy by **those** who are not a nation, I will **move you** to anger **by a** foolish nation.'" Romans 10:19 NKJV
2. "**What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way!** Chiefly because to them were committed the **oracles of God**. For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.'" Romans 3:1-4 NKJV
3. "They **sacrificed to demons**, not to God, To gods they did not know, **To new gods, new arrivals** That your fathers did not fear. **Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful,** And **have forgotten the God who fathered you.** "And when the Lord saw it, He spurned them, Because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters. And He said: 'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are **a perverse generation, Children in whom is no faith. They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God;** They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. {21} But **I will provoke them to jealousy** by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation." Deuteronomy 32:17-21 NKJV

F. Who will listen and obey?

(1) The combination of Israel's rebellion and God's turn toward the Gentiles was explosive.

(a) Israel, by and large, missed their long-awaited Messiah

1. "But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was **found by those** who did not seek Me; I was made **manifest to those** who did not ask for Me.'" Romans 10:20 NKJV
 - a) "'I was **sought by** those who did not ask for Me; I was **found by** those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation that was not called by My name. " Isaiah 65:1 NKJV
 - b) "What shall we say then? **That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness,** even the righteousness of faith; but **Israel, pursuing the**

*law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.” Romans
9:30-31 NKJV*

G. Why do we keep preaching?

(1) Separating Humans into Three Eternal Destinies

(a) That is why we keep preaching, day in and day out.

1. *“But to Israel he says: “All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.”” Romans 10:21 NKJV*
2. *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**” Romans 11:25 NKJV*
3. *“I have stretched out My hands **all day long to a rebellious people**, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;” Isaiah 65:2 NKJV*
4. *“A **people who provoke Me to anger** continually to My face; **Who sacrifice in gardens**, And **burn incense on altars of brick**; Who **sit among the graves**, And **spend the night in the tombs**; Who **eat swine’s flesh**, And the broth of abominable things is in their vessels; Who say, ‘**Keep to yourself, Do not come near me, For I am holier than you!**’ These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day.” Isaiah 65:3-5 NKJV*
5. *“For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” Philippians 3:20-21 NKJV*
6. *“**One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger** who dwells among you.” Exodus 12:49 NKJV*
7. *“because, **although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and **their foolish hearts were darkened.**” Romans 1:21 NKJV*
8. *“**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, **and coming in the likeness of men**. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those **in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth**, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
” Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV*