

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

11. Take the time necessary to ask two or three people to share their experience of becoming a believer in Christ. Ask them: How is your story a reminder of the importance of God's grace?

12. What are appropriate motives for obeying God's laws and practicing spiritual disciplines? How do they point us to the grace of God in Christ?

13. What is one step you could take toward serving Christ and others out of love for Him rather than out of a desire to earn His love? How might we as a group help each other be more mindful of God's grace?

Prayer Requests

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February 8, 2015

Is God Unfair?

Sermon Notes

Romans 3:1-8

Objections:

1. What A is there in being R? Romans 3:1-2

"the very words of God"

Romans 9:4-5

Advantages mean N if we do not A them!

2. Isn't God being U, U to His promises? Romans 9:4-5

Salvation has never been offered by God on the basis of H,
R C, S (Baptism, Lord's Supper),
G W, or A other than by faith and faith alone.
(Romans 3:5-8)

3. If our sin then makes God look G, how can He still J us?
Romans 3:5-8

One of the most obvious characteristics of fallen human nature is its amazing ability to R sin.

Don't trust in your religious P (Romans 6:1-2)

Don't trust in religious S symbols

Don't try to do what only G can do.

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

February 8, 2015

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. When was the hardest you have ever worked? What motivated you to work so hard?
2. In what area of your life do you get the most reward for your hard work? Your job? Your parenting? Your relationships? Your physical fitness? In what area do you get the least amount of return on your investment?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ GALATIANS 3:1-5.

3. Why is Paul's question in verse 2 so crucial? How would you state his question in your own words? What does Paul mean when he talks about "observing the law"?
4. Why do you think we so often fall into the trap of trying to advance our standing with God by what we do and what we believe? What is foolish about trying to impress God with our good works?

5. Paul wasn't taking issue with the religious works the people were doing, but with the motives behind their works. What was wrong with the motives of the Galatians? What motivates you?

READ GALATIANS 3:6-9.

6. In Paul's day people were tempted to try to impress God by observing religious rights and rituals like circumcision and Passover. What religious acts or rituals are Christians tempted to utilize today in order to try to advance their standing with God? How might such thinking hinder our spiritual growth? Our witness?

7. What does the example of Abraham tell us about the relationship between faith and righteousness?

READ GALATIANS 3:10-14.

8. What punishment from God do you deserve as a result of your sinful nature? Why can't works set you free from sin's curse? How does Jesus solve the problem that no one can earn right standing with God?

9. What would you say in response to someone who says, "If salvation is by grace, then good works don't matter"?

10. Why do we sometimes struggle to accept that our relationship with God is a gift that comes through faith and not through our good works?