

Sunday, October 9, 2022 - "Romans - Week 4 - The Beauty of Grace: Romans 4" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Romans 4, Galatians 3:1-6, Ephesians 2:8, John 4:12, Galatians 4:28

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Romans 4 is the good news (leading up this was then bad news that we are ALL sinners)
- This is the Gospel: Through faith, we are given extraordinary, undeserved and unmerited favor
- Abraham was justified by faith (what chapter 4 is all about)
 - All are guilty of sin but when we place our faith in Jesus we are made right with God, no longer guilty but just
 - By faith and faith ALONE (this is how it is and the way it has always been...even in the Old Testament...on one saved by works)
- v3: counted/credited as righteousness
 - Abraham believed in promises of God even when it seemed impossible (that God would bring life from no life)
 - Faith = an active trust in God; belief in what He says is true that results in action
 - If there is no action it's not faith
 - Genuine faith always results in movement
- We want to bring something to the table...Jesus and...reading my Bible, going to church, doing social justice
- v16: Justification DEPENDS on faith
 - So the promise depends on Grace (Galatians 3:1-6, Ephesians 2:8)
 - We have a pattern of believing we can work to earn something from God
- The "problem" with grace (our human and fallen nature)
 - It seems unfair
 - Offends our sense of justice (We live in an offense obsessed culture)
 - It feels ambiguous (we want a list of do's and don'ts...even though we could never keep it)
 - It seems reckless (people will abuse it)
 - It can be abused (slip into habitual sin, but sin always has a cost)
- The beauty of grace (it is the ultimate and only solution)
 - It fosters humility (no one can boast in themselves)
 - It reveals the power of the cross
 - It gives us a proper context for works (an expression of what we already have with God, not to earn)
 - It's an open invitation to everyone
 - Anyone can be brought into the family of God (Galatians 4:28)
 - As recipients we are called to be purveyors of radical grace...by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Why grace?
 - There was no other way
 - Only Jesus can bring dead to life
- The call of Romans is to put your faith in Jesus and receive his grace
- Receive and meditate on the grace of God and extend it to those around you

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How has God helped you to have an accurate view of the Gospel?
2. What does it mean to you personally that we are justified through faith alone?
3. When was a time where you tried to bring something to the table, Jesus and...?
4. Which of the problems with grace do you struggle with the most and why? (seems unfair, offends our sense of justice, feels ambiguous, seems reckless, can be abused)
5. How has grace fostered humility in you?
6. How is God calling you to be a purveyor of radical grace?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan****

Mon: Matthew 5 Tues: Matthew 6 Wed: Matthew 7 Thurs: Matthew 8 Fri: Matthew 9

Songs from the weekend: [Great Are You Lord - *All Sons and Daughters*] - [Showing Me Mercy - *Norflette Shumake*] - [Jesus We Love You - *Bethel Music*] - [The Heart of Worship - *Matt Redman*] - [There Is None Like You - *Steffany Gretzinger*]