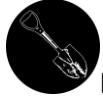




Kicking Off

Q Whose feats of bravery and sacrifice do you admire? Why?



Digging Deeper

Romans can be helpfully divided into 4 sections. Last week we completed the 1st section, ch1-4 'The heart of the gospel'. This week we start the 2nd major section: living out the gospel.

Read Romans 5:1-11

Q Why is verse 1a 'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith' a good summary of the first 4 chapters?

Q What did we learn in the first 4 chapters?

Q What does justification mean?

Q How is justification different to forgiveness?

Q What is reconciliation? (v11)

Q What kind of peace do we now enjoy? (v1)

Q We have been redeemed out of the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of Christ. What has changed for us? (v2)

Q What is to be our response to pain and suffering? How is this possible? (v3-4)

Q How can we be sure that our hope will not prove to be wishful thinking and disappoint us? (v5-8)

Q What does it mean that God loves us? (v8)

Q Verse 5 says God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. How have you experienced this in your life?

Q To have the objective truth of God's love without the subjective ministry of the Spirit, will leave God's love a theoretical truth. But to have subjective feelings without the objective anchor of the cross will deprive our assurance of any stability.

For we will be at the mercy of our feelings. Discuss.

Q How can we be sure that we will be saved from God's wrath? (v9-10)

Q God has already done the hard work of paying the price of salvation with his very self when we were his enemies, so we can be sure that he will do the comparatively easy job of saving us at the end, now we are his children. Discuss.



Think it through

There are 3 groups of people in church:

(1) Those who are secure & sure. They are justified and are sure they will be saved.

(2) Those who are secure but not sure; They are justified but lack assurance.

(3) Those who are not secure; They have not submitted to Christ.

Q Which one are you? Why?