

QUESTIONING GOD

For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. *Romans 10:10-12*



What is something that you have tried really hard to be good at but never quite made it, or what is the most ridiculous thing you have done to impress someone or prove yourself?

1. In Romans 9:30-33 Paul describes two groups pursuing the same goal, but only the Gentiles were made right with God – why?
 - In our lives we are constantly controlled by score cards, assessments, KPI's and reviews – how has this crept into and influenced the Christian faith?
 - Why do you think believers unintentionally fall back into a performance-based relationship with God even after trusting Jesus?
 - In Verse 33 why is Jesus a stumbling stone for many in Israel?
 - How does the same truth about Jesus lead one person to faith and another to rejection?

2. In Romans 10:1-4 Paul speaks of Israel's zeal for God – why was this not enough?
 - In what ways does passion without truth lead people in the wrong direction today?
 - How does Proverbs 14:12 speak into this?
 - What warning does this give to religious or committed people today?

Read Romans 10:9-13

3. What does it mean to believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord?
 - Why does genuine faith eventually express itself publicly?
 - How would you explain the difference between religion and the gospel?
 - What barriers tend to make people think they are excluded from God's grace? How would you encourage them to look to Jesus?

4. In Romans 10:14-15 Paul moves quickly from receiving the Gospel to sharing it, why do you think people who understand and receive God's grace are so passionate in telling others?
 - What is the sequence described in this passage about how people come to faith?
 - What role do believers play in God's plan? (*you may want to touch on Matthew 28:18-20 as well*)
 - How have you initiated conversations with others about Jesus?
 - What would help you make this the norm rather than the exception in your life?

5. Romans 10 ends with a picture of God holding out His arms in invitation (v21). What does that image tell us about God's heart toward people who are far from Him?
 - Why do some people still refuse God even when aware of His invitation?
 - How should we respond to friends, family and others who reject the gospel?

Application Challenges:

- Who in your life needs to hear the message of Jesus – and what is one step you can take this week to encourage them to seek Jesus?
- Can each of you provide a name for everyone to pray for this week and for you to have an opportunity to speak to them?
- How can your group encourage each other to live out grace this week?