



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, March 20, 2011

Live By Faith: Saving Faith

Ephesians 2:4-10

Michael Flake, Mission Pastor

Think back through your life. What are times that you have heard really, really good news?

Share about these as a group.

In Evangelical Churches there is a constant call to "tell people the good news of Jesus Christ." How would you summarize this good news? When you hear this statement, what is the good news that you believe people need to hear?

Some would summarize this good news into the words, "we are saved". When you hear the word "saved", what comes to mind for you?

Read Ephesians 2:4-10

The good news is verse 8-9. Read these words again. Talk as a group about why this is good news. What's so good about this news?

Michael Flake defined the word saved as "**rescued, as from a shipwreck; healed, as from a disease**". Reflect as a group on some of the explanation that Michael gave around these metaphors.

He defined the word "works" as "**working hard to do the right thing.**"

Talk as a group about ways you have worked hard just this past week to do the right thing.

When you hear that we are not "saved" by "works", does this mean we stop trying hard to do the right thing?

When did Flake say it is wrong to work hard to do the right thing?

Michael defined the word grace as "**a gift given out of goodwill.**" How is this different from works? Wages?

Year end bonus?

Many times when we give gifts we will hear the words, "oh, you didn't have too." If you had to give someone a gift, would it still be a gift?

Did God have to give us grace? Why did he give us grace? Why is this such good news? What does it tell you about God?

Michael defined the word faith as "committing your life to the God you trust." You are healed by the spiritual disease that killed you. You are alive!

Michael said that after you commit your life to the God you trust, you now have to learn how to live as a person that is no longer sick. Where are places that you continue to live like you are sick spiritually?

What are ways you want your life to look different now that you are healed? As a group, pray over each of these areas for each person.

Have each person in the group read this "translation" to the group. Have them read it as if they are saying it to all the rest of the members of the group:

Your spiritual healing does not come by working hard to do the right thing. It comes as a gift from God, a gift that you receive because you trust God and commit your life to Him. Doing the right thing is the result, not the reason, of your healing. Spend time as a group thanking God for how good this news truly is!