

FREE: A NEW HEART

"The Remarkable Gift of God's Grace" - Message on May 22, 2016

Getting Started:

1. Have you ever been in the military and what was your experience at Boot Camp? How does your experience relate to the opening illustration? What similarities do you find with what Paul has done?
2. What does your salvation or relationship with God mean to you? What are you grateful for?
3. In your own words, describe the gospel?

Digging Deeper:

1. How does verse 21 demonstrate God's plan and love for us?
2. Have different people look up "justification," "redemption," and "atonement" in a dictionary (or Bible dictionary).
 - a. In light of these definitions and what you heard on Sunday, how would you translate these terms into everyday English to explain what God did for us in Jesus?
3. How can you illustrate them by examples of the freedom, forgiveness and acceptance you have found in Jesus?

4. How does the faithfulness of Christ work on the cross enable God to be both the "just" and the "one who justifies?"
 - a. How does Paul defend the "righteousness of God (this may stretch you but take a shot at it)?"

5. How does the gospel reveal the righteousness of God (1:16, 17)?

6. How do we receive "God's righteousness" or how are we "justified"?" How does this remove "boasting?"

7. How does the "law" and "faith" go hand in hand?

8. How does "faith" remove any dividing walls between people?

Taking it home:

1. If you had to explain the gospel from this passage alone, what would you say?
2. What did the Holy Spirit lay on your heart from this passage?
3. When did the message of God's grace become real to you? What difference is it making in our life right now?
4. What prejudices and barriers exist in the church today? How could you help to break them down?