

Section 7: Living by the Gospel (*Experiencing the Good News*)

Complete Forgiveness from God

- ✚ 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (see Hebrews 7:27)
- ✚ Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (see also Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:12; Luke 7:48)
- ✚ Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

- 1) Do you think God is aware of *all* your sinfulness?
- 2) Do you think God knows about your deepest secrets and the most shameful areas of your life?
- 3) Should a person experience guilt and shame if they have accepted God's complete forgiveness?
- 4) Why does a person continue to walk with guilt and shame? Is this God's plan for the believer?

Unconditional Love & Acceptance from God

- ✚ Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- ✚ Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 5) How do you respond to the passage above?
- 6) Does God's love for a believer change when he or she sins?
- 7) How are God's love and acceptance different from the love and acceptance that we experience in this world and in our lives?

Hope

When the New Testament talks about hope it is something that is *certain* but has not yet been fully experienced. The hope that we have in Christ is certain whereas those without Christ have *no hope*. We see this in the verse below.

- ✚ Ephesians 2:12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, ... without hope and without God in the world.

- 8) In this passage below, what is this hope that is certain that we should look forward to experiencing?

- ✚ 2 Corinthians 3:10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! 12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

- 9) According to the verse below, how do we more fully understand this hope?

- ✚ Ephesians 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...

- 10) Why is hope good news? How does real hope make a difference?