

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Personal Life:

1. How has your week been since you last met as a group? Please open by sharing one testimony of how you've seen the grace of God in your life this week...

Ponderings:

2. Turn to Hebrews 8 and read the passage together, discussing the following thoughts and questions after you do so. Keep in mind that Hebrews is written to early Jewish Christians who were struggling to leave the Old Covenant Law behind, much like Paul describes in Romans 7.
 - In vs. 1-2 Jesus is described as our high priest serving in the "true tabernacle" not made by human hands (i.e. heaven). What is the significance of the idea that our high priest "sat down at the right hand" of God's throne?
 - Vs. 6 proclaims that the New Covenant is established on "better promises" than the old. Share some examples of these better promises...
 - Vs. 7-8 boldly infer that there was something "wrong" with the Old Covenant. It wasn't that God's Law was corrupt, but that God "found fault with the people." How does this phrase confirm or compliment Paul's teaching about the Law in Romans 7:9-12?
 - Vs. 8-12 detail many of the blessings of the New Covenant as it was originally promised to Israel. Vs. 13 says that this "new" covenant makes the first covenant "obsolete." How does this square up with Paul's words to Timothy that "all Scripture is God-breathed and profitable?" (2 Tim. 3:16).
3. Based on what you remember from the weekend message, what are some reasons that grace produces godly living so much more effectively than law?
4. Paul links our ability to "bear fruit for God" directly to the degree in which we are living in freedom from the law. How does that reality sit with you? Does it make you squirm? Does it make you fearful or concerned? Why or why not?

Promptings:

5. To what degree are you truly living in freedom from a law-based mind-set and the sin that "springs to life" in you through it (not because the law is sinful, but because sin uses the law to trip you up)?
6. Share with the group one way in which you admit that you often struggle with a law-based mind-set (could be related to a relationship, a trial, a temptation, or any other struggle of life). Why do you get tripped up here? Pray for each other to walk in greater freedom from this!