

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

God's Strategy in Human History

Week 2: God's Strategy Regarding Works

Romans 9:10-16

Week of August 9, 2020

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

In our study of Romans 9, God continues to reveal His strategy through human history. In this week's passage, Paul used another set of brothers (Jacob & Esau) to prove that good works will not get you right with God. In our study, we also looked at the benefit of good works and the doctrine of Election. May deep theology create deep humility in each of us.

Kicking it off: In Jeff's first job, as a lifeguard, he made \$3.35/hour. What was your first real job, and how much did you make?

Discussion:

1. Reread *Romans 4:2,4* If Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had something to boast about. To the one who works, wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.

Why would we have something to boast about if salvation was through works?

2. Reread about Isaac and Rebekah's sons in *Romans 9:11-12* Before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."

How does a prenatal announcement of great benefit prove that salvation is not by works?

3. Why do many (maybe most) people believe that they can get to heaven through good works?
4. Though "works" cannot get us right with God, they are beneficial in a number of ways. What are some of the benefits of "works?"
5. Reread *Romans 9:15-16* God said to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Why does God have the right to choose whom He will save?

6. Jeff shared his conviction that God elects to save people who place "faith" in Jesus Christ. Why is Jeff convinced that "faith" is not a "work" (that which deserves a wage)?
7. How can our belief in "salvation by grace" lead to genuine humility?

Wrapping It Up: We don't deserve to be saved, but we are! Pray that this truth would fill our hearts with deep gratitude and true humility.