

Is Righteousness Worth it?

(Insights from Exodus 33 - 34)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, May 28th, 2017

An Interesting Passage:

(Exodus 33 - 34, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Insights Related to Our Impact On Others:

1. My Choices are not just B _____

(1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26-27, Romans 12:4-5)

2. My Personal Sins can B _____

(1 Cor 11:1, 15:33, John 13:15, Ps 1:1-4, Joshua 7:1-26, Exodus 34:7)

3. My Personal Successes can B _____

(Isaiah 64:6, James 5:16-18, 1 Peter 3:12, Proverbs 28:9)

positional vs personal righteousness

- **My ...**
(Genesis 18:20-32, Ezekiel 22:23-31)

- **My ...**
(Proverbs 14:26, 1 Corinthians 7:12-16)

- **My ...**
(Psalm 106:19-23)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 6" of this season of our small groups at GPC! After this meeting, we have just one meeting left before we take an early summer break. Our groups at GPC meet for nine months throughout the year. These nine months are broken up in three seasons. We meet from September - November, take December off, meet again from January - March, and then from April - mid June. After we take July and August off, we start it all over again :).

Getting Started:

In the book of Exodus, we have seen the people of Israel have their share of highs and lows. Looking back at the last few weeks, what has been one high you can be grateful for and one low (disappointment that has reminded you that you need the support and prayers of others)?

As we looked at Exodus 33-34 last Sunday, we saw how Moses' personal righteousness (right choices that God is pleased with) impacted others in a positive way. Who has benefited your life lately by their love, kindness, patience, or some other way you are thankful for?

Bob mentioned there are two types of righteousness: positional and personal. As a group, try and clarify the difference between the two.

From the following verses in Romans, which verses describe our positional righteousness and which describes our personal righteousness:

Romans 3:23-24

Romans 4:5

Romans 5:2

Romans 6:1-2

Romans 6:16

Romans 8:1-2

Romans 12:1-3

Digging Deeper:

1. We live in a very individualistic society in which it is easy to function as if we're independent from those around us. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul uses the human body as an analogy of how Christ followers are to relate to one another. As you read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31, what are some of the things that catch your attention in regards to how God wants us to function as part of his family?

In the 'getting started section' you might have already shared about someone who benefited your life in some way. Can you think of any other ways you have benefited from others playing their ministry roles as God has gifted them?

What are some examples of how a local body of believers like GPC might be hindered when someone isn't willing to play their role?

2. In last Sunday's teaching, we saw how Moses' personal choices impacted others. The reality is that what we do or say will often affect and influence those around us just as it did in Moses' time. King Solomon is another example of someone who had great influence in his lifetime. What attitudes do you see reflected in Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 3:7-10 that could help explain why he had such great influence?

Why do you think those attitudes are important for having a positive influence?

3. Most of us have had to live with the consequences of other people's bad or sinful decisions. Their choice to use their influence negatively can have a significant and often lasting impact on us. How could the following verses help us when we're facing this kind of situation?

Romans 5:3-4

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

4. There are times in all of our lives, as we struggle to make right choices that please God ... we wonder, Is it worth it ??? Sometime it is hard to see the connection between right (or wrong) choices we make and the impact they have on others.

The hard part about faith is that we often don't see the results until much later. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that 'faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.'

Other than the reminder from this last Sunday that our choices do matter, how else can we as a small group help encourage each other to avoid the wrong and actively pursue the right?

WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last Sunday's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close?

Lastly, as a community of Christ followers at GPC, we desire to make a significant and eternal impact on the lives around us. As part of our prayer time, let's ask God to use the folks that make up the body of Grace Point Church to be a blessing in practical and eternal ways in our surrounding communities as we start to wrap up this spring and look toward the summer months.