

Discussion Guide for Belief that Counts Part 1

1. Read John 16:27-33 and briefly review the sermon outline

What parts of Sunday's lesson did you find helpful, enlightening, unclear or troubling?

2. Truth: Belief that counts is belief in Christ: who He is and what He has done. Because we are trusting in His accomplishments and His power, our belief counts even in our weakness.

Read Romans 10:3-13

-What is the source of our right standing with God in vs. 3-7?

-With what kind of righteousness is "righteousness based on faith" contrast?

-What is the content of our faith that makes us right with God in vs. 8-10?

-How does our heart relate our saving faith?

-How does our mouth relate to our saving faith?

-What is the relationship between heart faith and verbalization of our faith?

-What are some ways that we can publicly confess with our mouths the Jesus is Lord?

-What are the promises for us in vs. 11-13?

Read Romans 4:1-8

-What do we learn about good works and their contribution to our salvation?

-If not good works, what is it that secures our right standing with God?

-How does the explanation of "boasting" in works in 4:2 and "wages" earned in 4:4 help us to understand why works and grace are incompatible?

-Why is it hard sometimes to simply accept that we are right with God because of our faith alone?

-How have you seen the fleshly pull towards self-righteousness and trust in your own performance?

-How is it right and just for God to forgive and reward us, even though we are "ungodly", "lawless" and "sinners"?

Read Romans 3:21-28

-What is the holy tension that Christ resolved in v.26?

-What was necessary for God to remain just but also save sinners in vs. 23-25?

-How does God want our hearts to respond to justification by faith alone in vs. 27-28?

