

The Real Thing

FAMILY THEME: Authentic Faith

STUDY TEXT: Psalm 103:1-14; Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 7:15-25

February 3, 2019

Psalm 103:1-14

Approach God honestly, confident in His nature. God isn't like us, and that is a good thing. He loves us and always will. His grace and mercy are greater than all our sins. We can be completely open and honest with God, knowing He knows it all anyway. **Discussion:**

- Why can we be completely authentic with God?
- What does it look like to be authentic in our relationship with God?

Ephesians 2:1-10

Continue to worship and serve God, knowing we don't have to be perfect to do so. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. We can worship and serve Him confidently, understanding that faith determines our standing with God, not our own merit or good deeds. We can serve the Lord out of love and appreciation for the gift of salvation He has given us, not out of obligation. **Discussion:**

- How would you explain to a lost neighbor our identity in Christ, including both our sin and imperfection and our status as forgiven and righteous?
- How can we balance the understanding that we are not saved by our works (verses 8-9) with the call to a life of good works (verse 10) once we are saved?

Romans 7:15-25

Let go of pride and be more concerned about what people think of God than what people think of us. Our purpose is to elevate God. He must increase and we must decrease (John 3:30). While we shouldn't revel in our failures, we don't have to hide them either. We should testify to the goodness, grace, and mercy of God in our own lives as a means of encouraging others to seek Him. **Discussion:**

- What makes it difficult for us to be honest about our failures as Christians? What can we do to overcome these difficulties?
- What are some examples of how God has used your weaknesses or the weaknesses of others to demonstrate His glory?