

UP, IN, OUT: Gut-check time...On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is really bad and 10 is exceptional, how would you rate your "UP" relationship w/ God? How did you reach that conclusion? If you didn't rate yourself as a 10, was there ever a point where you were closer to God than you are right now and what was the circumstance?

OPEN: As a child, did you believe in Santa Claus, or were you at least filled w/ eager anticipation of what might be under the tree Christmas morning? Were you filled w/ wonder and awe? Did you ever wonder how could this be, or did you just accept it be true, i.e., just believed?

DIG:

Read John 3:16-18, Acts 16:30-31, Romans 3:21-26

- All three of these passages, and others in the New Testament, state that we must believe in Jesus to be saved, but what does "believe" mean? We all believe in a great number of things but none of them factor into our salvation. Can someone believe that Jesus actually walked on the face of the earth and that's sufficient to provide for their salvation or is there "The rest of the story!" as Paul Harvey would say?
- Romans 3:25 uses the word "propitiation." What does this mean? How is it "put forward by His blood?" How is it "received by faith?"
- What do you think it means that God passed over former sins? (V.25) What doesn't it mean?
- What does Romans 3:26 mean by "both just and justifier?"

REFLECT:

Yeah, but don't our works/deeds factor into this overall equation? I mean, c'mon, they're important are they not? Well, before you crack open the Good Book, how would you answer these questions?

Read Romans 3:27-28, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-7

- So, what conclusion(s) do you draw from these passages?

Read James 2:14-16

- Does this complete the picture for you? What conclusions do you now draw about the importance of our works/deeds and their significance?

APPLY:

So, what do you feel is the next step you need to take in your spiritual journey to move up the scale closer to a ten like we mentioned at the beginning of this Outpost session?

Remember that Jesus promised that we could have life to the fullest through Him (John 10:10b), don't short-sheet yourself!!!

PRAY: