



## **Icebreaker:**

What are your plans for Easter?

## **Announcements:**

Invite a friend to join you for one of our Easter services and our upcoming series “Grit.”

## **Prayer Time:**

Pray for our building project as renovations continue in our west wing and work on our parking lot begins

## **Study Questions:**

Have you ever had a judgmental person in your life or attended a legalistic church? What message(s) did they convey to you and others? What rules did you need to follow? What would happen if you did not follow their rules? Read Romans 7:14-20. Would Paul have been accepted by such people?

How do guilt, shame, and law based organizations actually undermine true faith? How does Jesus' cross save us from religious legalism? See Romans 5:6-8;

5:18-21; 8:3-4; Colossians 2:13-14. How is this great news for us as Christ followers—see Rom. 8:1.

What is now our motivation for growing in our faith and living a changed life? What role does gratitude now play vs guilt and constant insecurity about our salvation?

If we know Jesus and have a relationship with Him what does Romans 8:12-17 say will inevitably follow? What voice will we now want to follow—v. 14? What are we now willing to do as Christfollowers that we weren't before accepting Jesus—v.17. How is suffering a good thing when it pushes back against our sinful nature's pleasure (only) seeking?

Why is it so important to refocus our minds when we are tempted? Read Romans 8:5-11. What does this say about our thought life? Where do self focused thoughts naturally take us? Where do healthy, Christ honoring thoughts take us? How is the convicting and course correcting voice of the Holy Spirit radically different from the shame based voice of the legalist?

Why is it so important to take the following steps in this inner battle with our self oriented nature: avoid temptation zones... connect with the right people going in the right direction... get back up when you fall?

Read Galatians 6:1-5. Why is a grace based community critical in helping us fight and win our inner battles and avoid the chaos that always follows?

**Conversational Prayer:** Dear God help me...