

## Earn it, or Enjoy it?

# TALK IT OVER

### Key Scriptures

Acts 15:1-29

Rom. 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in the one who declares the ungodly righteous, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Rom. 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of God's glory.

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

1 Peter 1:15-16 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 2:16 Live as free people, not using your freedom as a pretext for evil, but as God's slaves.

Gal 5:13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another in love.

1 Pet 2:12, Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Cor. 3:11-15 <sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**Key Point:** Salvation is by grace, not earned. Jesus set us free from sin, so we don't have to try to earn favor with God.

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Kyle mentioned "Saving Private Ryan" in Sunday's message. Do you have any war movies that are your favorite or that impacted you?

**Start thinking:** Questions to get your group thinking.

- What is the common theme that Romans 4:5, 5:1-2, 6:14, & Gal 5:1, are all teaching us?
- Read Acts 15:1-29. What were the main issues that the Apostles needed to address in the council of Jerusalem? (vv. 1, 5) How did they answer the issues?
- How does our behavior as Christians influence our witness to non-believers? (1 Pet 2:12)
- How should we use our freedom in Christ to serve God and others? (1 Pet 1:15-16, 2:16, Gal 5:13,)
- Kyle listed 6 reasons God wants us to turn from sin and live for Him. How many can you remember?

**Start sharing:** Questions to create openness.

- How does the fact that our salvation and relationship with God are not based on performance affect your perspective on Christian living? (Gal 5:1)
- Kyle mentioned that many evangelical churches teach a system where you have salvation by grace, but the Christian experience by good works. Why do you think this is so? What was your experience like?
- How does understanding the eternal rewards for our actions impact the choices you make? (1 Cor 3:11-15)

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week!

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**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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