



The Bad News

HELLO

I'm going to be straight here. There is nothing complicated or difficult, intellectually, about understanding what Paul is saying in this week's text. Understanding with our brain is not really the issue. He is clear, in your face, and shockingly bold. Our problem with this teaching is spiritual blindness and arrogance. Yeah, that's a tough intro to this guide, but what Paul said hits much deeper and stings much harder.

Share an example where things were going great one minute and took a bad or severe turn for the worse the next.

What did it take for you to adjust or recover?

GROW

How often do you look in a mirror? Once or several times each day? Sometimes we take a quick glance just to make sure the hair is right, or the make-up still looks good. Sometimes we take a longer look to deal with minor blemishes or perfect the details. How often should we take a closer look to evaluate our spiritual image? Those details are eternally important, and we can't neglect them, or they become invisible to us but not to God and others.

Read Romans 1:18-32 (them)

How do you deal with criticism?

How do you deal with judgmentalism toward others?

Why do we elevate some sins over others? (Why is sexual sin "greater" or "more shameful" than lying or gossip?)

MOVE

Read Romans 2:1-11 (us)

What is the danger of entitlement?

Read Romans 2:4

Remember, grace is powerful in the face of sin. You can't appreciate it until you experience why you need it.

How would you say you see and appreciate God's grace in your life?
How would you say you might be blind to his grace in your life or others'?

The devastating list of sinful behaviors in 1:29-32 captures all of us in one way or another. No one can escape it.

What is something you can start this week to grow your capacity to give grace and compassion to yourself and others? (Name it, make a plan, start)

PRAY

Nothing will make you feel more like a community than this time. Share your joys, your burdens, your victories, your fears. This is the place to do it.