

## Small Group Discussion Guide – April 10, 2011

### Exploring Core Beliefs: “Grace, Works, and Baptism” Sermon notes from David Mathews

**Pendulum Swings:** Pendulum swings, better known as icebreakers or getting started questions, are just a fun way to kickoff your small group time together by going from the not so serious to deeper connecting times.

#### As you begin your Small Group this week ... “*Would you rather ...*”

- ✓ “... eat Mexican food or Chinese food?” (Which, along w/ fast foods seem to be the options here in Searcy!)
- ✓ “... be homeless or friendless?”
- ✓ “... hitchhike across the U.S. or sneak rides on freight trains across the U.S.?”
- ✓ “... forgive or be forgiven?”
- ✓ “... be with Jesus at His baptism or spend the 40 days with Jesus in the wilderness?”

#### 1. **READ: Romans 3:9-31; Romans 5:1-5**

Paul makes the case that no one can be declared righteous by our/their own efforts.

- Discuss specifically this passage.
- If we believe what Paul writes, how might our lives be different?

#### 2. **READ: Galatians 3:1-14**

- Discuss the absurdity of relying on keeping “enough of the Law” (of doing enough good, of refraining from bad, etc.), to be saved from our sins.

#### 3. **READ: Romans 6:1-4 and Galatians 3:26-29**

In both passages, Paul argues that works cannot save us. He also discusses baptism.

- Discuss how baptism plays a part in our salvation process;
- In what ways does Paul not classify baptism as a work?
- How is baptism part of being saved?

**REFER TO: Ephesians 2:8-9** - *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

#### 4. Discuss and share the circumstances surrounding your baptism.

- How can remembering our baptism encourage us?
- In what ways can (remembering) our baptism encourage others?