

**Going Deeper – Despair**

Why does Christianity always try to make me feel bad about myself?

**Our assessment of ourselves****God's assessment**

verse 9 ... under the power of sin

righteous = right before God and have nothing to worry about from God, even on judgement day.

Two reasons why God's word has described me (and you) accurately.

Firstly... the impact of our sin hangs over us and taints us every day

Secondly ... mixed motives with the good things that I do?

“factories of filth”

**Why realising this is good for us.**

Psalm 34:18 – “The LORD is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”.

Proverbs 3:34, “The LORD mocks proud mockers but shows favour to the humble and oppressed.”

Firstly, if we acknowledge our true state we will not try to treat the problem of sin with simply a panadol.

Secondly... seek God's solution to our problem

GRACE = God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

But doesn't this reality just fill us with despair?

Yes ....

John Newton, “the life of faith seems so simple and easy in theory, that I can point it out to others in so few words; but in practice is very difficult, and my advances are so slow, that I hardly dare say I go forward at all”.

Jl Packer, “the index of the soundness of a person's faith in Christ is the genuineness of the self-despair from which it springs.”

Rev 3:17, “You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.” But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”

**This is NOT where we should remain.**

**Moving out of the pit of despair**

**Romans 3:19 – 26.** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in[a] Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished 26 – he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.