

February 16, 2018

### Russell's Ritings....

A fanciful, but fruitful, story relates how a man died, went to heaven, and was met by St. Peter. St. Peter told the man he had to have accumulated one hundred points before he could come in. The man then started a recitation of all his good works on earth.

"I was a devoted church member for forty years," said the man. "Good," replied St. Peter. "That's worth one point."

"During all those years I tithed my income," said the man. "Good," replied St. Peter. "That's one more point."

"I raised a moral and productive family," said the man. "Good," replied St. Peter. "That's worth still one more point."

Fearful now, the man exclaimed, "Only three point for all that? I'll never get into heaven except for the grace of God." Peter then said, "The grace of God is worth ninety-seven points. Come on in."

It is indeed only by His grace we find life and that eternal. We have entered Lent, a forty day period for fasting and repentance as we remember those many ways we all fall short of His grace. I invite you to join me in a Lenten discipline of prayer, fasting, and repentance as we prepare our hearts for Easter. Specifically, I am inviting you to join me in praying daily at 7 a. m., attending worship the seven Sundays of Lent/Easter, and inviting seven persons to church during this season.

This Sunday's sermon, Lent 1, the sermon will be "A New Heart". The dual texts for Sunday are Ezekiel 18:31b and Ezekiel 36:26. I hope to see you!

From the Heart,

Russell