# Walking through treacle 11. Answer your critics

## 2 Cor 10:1-11:15

# Answering your critics

## When walking through treacle there are invariably people who scrutinise you negatively

### This section of 2 Corinthians has some great counsel on how to walk that line of humble faith

#### It’s a defence that explains without being self-justifying and it’s based on the nature of God

# God commends people

## He does this in such a way that you cannot boast

### If you boast you rob God of His glory

## His commendation comes through the Holy Spirit

# There’s winning and there’s winning…

## How to win:

### First: choose your judge

#### Who are you trying to please?

### Second: Choose your goal

#### Where do you want to get to?

#### Where do you want others to get to?

### Third: choose your ground

#### What is worth fighting for?

### Fourth: choose your criteria

#### How do you measure success?

### Fifth: Fight using character, not competency

#### It’s not what I can do but who I am

# It’s about grace!

## Grace is the key to getting into the kingdom

## Grace is the key to staying in the kingdom

### It doesn’t become a religion of works once you are in

## Grace is the key to completing the course and entering His glory

### Where the pat on the back will be… you made it!

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# God commends people

## When have you known the commendation of God?

### How strong was the commendation?

### How did it make you feel?

### Share your experience if appropriate

## Have you been the one that God used to commend another person?

### What were the circumstances and what were the effects?

### How did it make you feel?

## Read the commendations of Jesus by the Father in Luke 3:21,22 and 9:28-36

### What did the Father actually say?

#### How many words were used?

### ‘The greatest commendation was being raised from the dead’

#### To what extent do you agree with this statement?

#### Can we use this to justify our own actions?

# Winning and winning

## Is it really possible to ‘lose in order to win’?

### Explain your answer

## To what extent was Paul right to argue from character rather than competency in this passage?

### How would arguing on their level have panned out?

#### Who would have won?

#### Who would have lost?

# It’s about grace!

## To what extent do you agree that being a Christian is all about grace?

### What place do works have in getting to heaven and securing our place there?