**“Principles for Understanding God’s Judgment”
Genesis 19**

* **God Must Judge Sin. Read Genesis 19:1-12**. In this passage, the sins of the city of Sodom is on full display and God is preparing to judge the city for it. Pastor Jon spoke about sin being “*disgusting”* in God’s sight. Why do you think that we often do not take our sin as serious as God does? Why do we often condemn others when we see their sin, but respond differently to our own sin?
* Pastor Jon stated, “*One of the most deadly and damaging effects of sin is that we minimize it, measure it, and categorize it*.” – Is there any besetting sin in your life that you are currently minimizing (downplaying)? Can you give an example of either minimizing or categorizing sin? What is the danger of doing this?
* **God Judges His Enemies, Not His Friends. Read Genesis 19:12-29.** In this passage, we see that God refuses to judge the city until Lot left. Pastor Jon taught us that all payment and judgment for past, present, and future sin was laid on Jesus on the Cross. There is now no condemnation (judgment) for those who are in Christ. **Read Romans 8:1-2, Colossians 1:21-22, Galatians 2:20, James 2:13, and Romans 8:35-39**. Even though Christ took all of our judgment/punishment, why do we often still feel like God is “*punishing*” us? Have you felt that way before? What is the Biblical truth that we should replace this thinking with?
* **Read Romans 8:35-39** out loud again. What does these verses teach us about how God views us? Do you struggle to believe everything in these verses? What would it look like for you to trust the Lord and believe that He loves you when you are going through trials and hardship?
* **Sin Produces Destructive Consequences. Read Genesis 19:30-38.** In these verses we find Lot and his daughters in a sinful situation. Much of the sin taking place between Lot and his daughters is due to Lot living in Sodom. Sometimes God allows us to feel the consequences of our sin. Have you ever had to endure a consequence for something sinful that you’ve done? How can you guard your heart from blaming God and getting angry with him when enduring consequences?
* How can we better encourage those who are weary and feel worn down by the pain they experience due to the consequences of their sin? What does it look like to love others and walk with them through their consequences?

**Accountability:**

1. Are there any unhealthy thought patterns that you currently have about God or others?
2. Is there a besetting sin that you are too ashamed to share with the group?
3. Who do you need to intercede for today!