



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 14, 2019

This Week's Focus: The gospel is that by God's grace we are justified by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, and we are thereby forgiven of our sins and freed to live in humble, loving obedience to God's law.

This Week's Text: Galatians 1:1-2

"[Y]et we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified." **Galatians 2:16**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text.
- Why is it important to understand the context (historical, grammatical, cultural, etc.) when interpreting a passage of Scripture? How does this affect our application of the text?
- Who is the apostle Paul and what was his relationship to the Galatians (Acts 16:6, 18:23)?
- Why was Paul frustrated with the Galatians (verses 6-9)? What is an apostle ("sent one") and why did Paul feel it necessary to defend his role/office? Where did Paul receive his calling and authority (verses 1-2)?
- How is an apostle distinct from a disciple (learner/follower)? Are there apostles like Paul today (Acts 1:21-22)? Who is the only one with complete apostolic authority (Hebrews 3:1)?
- What two cultures were colliding in the Galatian church? What was the purpose of Paul's epistle?
- What is the gospel (verses 1-5; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)? What false gospel had the Galatians adopted?
- Discuss the following definition of justification: *to be counted or regarded as righteous because of the imputation of Jesus' righteousness given as a free gift by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.*
- What is *legalism*? What were the Judaizers requiring of the Gentile converts? What does legalism (living under/relying on the law) look like today?
- What is *antinomianism*? What is the purpose and function of God's law in the life of the Christian (Romans 7:12, 13:8-10; Psalm 19:7-10; 1 John 5:3; Galatians 5:13-14)?

- Are you prone to either legalism or antinomianism? Discuss how the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is the only antidote to *legalism* and *antinomianism*.
- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission by demonstrating and declaring the gospel to those in your community and spheres of influence?