

# king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 19, 2019

**This Week's Focus:** The true gospel of Christ frees us from the burden of works-based salvation and unites believers on mission.

**This Week's Text:** Galatians 2:1-10

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

## **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)? Where had Paul received his gospel and authority to preach that gospel? What was the false gospel that the Judaizers were spreading throughout the region? What judgement awaits those who perpetuate a false gospel? Do you have a clear enough understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ to recognize counterfeits?
- What prompted Paul to travel to Jerusalem (verse 2, Acts 11:27-30)? What do we know about Paul's travel companions Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37, 9:26-27, 15:1-2) and Titus (verses 1-3; Titus 1:1-5; 2 Corinthians 7:6-7, 8:23)? Who are "those that seemed influential" and why did Paul describe them this way?
- Read the following and discuss why the sign of circumcision was an important part of Israel's identity. How did Jesus' atoning work change that?
  - Circumcision perpetuated the memory of the covenant (Genesis 17:9-14)
  - Circumcision consecrated and distinguished the offspring of Abraham from Gentiles in preparation for the coming of the promised offspring – the messiah.
  - Circumcision symbolized the putting away of sin and reminder to walk in moral purity.
- What form of slavery did the Judaizers promote with their false gospel? How is a person saved from sin and reconciled to God? Discuss how our obedience to God's commands is not the means of our salvation but the God-glorifying, joyful response to salvation.

- What's the difference between Timothy's decision to be circumcised in Acts 16 and Titus' refusal in Galatians 2? When it comes to freedom in Christ, how do we wisely determine what is permissible and what is mandatory? Have you elevated secondary issues to matters of first (gospel) importance? Have you subjugated matters of first (gospel) importance to secondary issues?
- What two distinct ministries had God entrusted to Peter and Paul, and what was their unifying message? Who are the specific "poor" that Paul references in verse 10 (Acts 11:27-30)? Discuss how the gospel emboldens us for mission and also give us compassion for those in need. How and to whom is God calling you to demonstrate and declare the gospel?