

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 25, 2019

This Week's Focus: As new creations, Christians boast in the cross of Jesus Christ even in the face of persecution knowing that they are eternally loved by God and will forever experience his grace, mercy, and peace.

This Week's Text: Galatians 6:11-18

"Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.'" **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit has impressed on your heart and mind from this week's text. How has our study through Galatians realigned your thoughts, feelings, and actions with the truth of the gospel?
- Briefly recount Paul's purpose for writing his letter to the Galatians. Contrast the Judaizers' false gospel with justification by faith alone in Christ alone (Galatians 2:16). What are the blessings and freedoms that children of God inherit as a result of Jesus' atoning work? How is a Spirit-filled life manifested among God's people and in the world?
- Why did Paul find it necessary to conclude his letter in his own large, handwritten letters? What were the Judaizers' hoping to avoid and to achieve by forcing the Gentile believers to be circumcised? What is the underlying motive behind false-religions and moralistic worldviews that promote good deeds? What is the gospel offensive to the world?
- What are some things that the world boasts in? By boasting in the cross, what are we declaring to the world about ourselves and the person and work of Christ? What has become less appealing and attractive to you since you placed your faith in Jesus Christ?
- What miraculous change occurs in all who trust Jesus (verse 15)? How does a new identity in Christ inform how we live?
- What is the *rule* that Paul mentions in verse 16? Explain how peace and mercy are inextricably connected. Who is Paul referring to by the phrase the *Israel of God*?
- Is your identification with Jesus, the gospel, and service to others so vital that it has become costly?
- Consider the costliness of God's grace in Jesus Christ and share what this grace means to you daily.
- To whom is the Holy Spirit encouraging you to demonstrate and declare the gospel?