

## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Galatians 1:1-17. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. To whom does Paul trace his apostleship? Why is that important? How is your faith & your being sent as a missionary witness to Jesus traceable the same way?
3. Paul charges the Galatians with abandoning grace. What is grace? More specifically, what would it look like if a church or a Christ-follower gave up on grace today?
4. How does the gospel of grace free you from **BOTH** pride **AND** guilt? What result of a gospel-changed life does verse 10 reveal? Why is that so important for Paul & us?
5. Compare & contrast the driving force behind Paul's past actions (v. 13-14) & his current motivation (v. 10, 15-16). What accounts for that difference?
6. A startling change in a person's life can mean many different things. When has God made a radical change in your life which some people at first didn't understand? What happened & how did you explain it?
7. In verses 1 & 11 Paul reiterates the source of his authority. Paul returns to this matter frequently in the New Testament letters. Why is that a crucial question for Paul to convincingly answer?
8. What was different about the source of Paul's authority before & after he believed in Jesus? What does Paul mean saying God chose him "before I was born"? Read Ephesians 1:4 & discuss how God's choosing to save us in Christ & Paul's understanding that God simultaneously chose Paul for particular service are both true for you as they are for Paul.
9. This passage (as do others) reveals that at times there was disagreement about authority & disunity of leadership within the early church. What does Paul say is the final word in all matters of faith? How can you tell when someone is being faithful or unfaithful to that standard?
10. What kinds of false teachings about God & the gospel are often heard today in our culture & even in churches? How can you give a clear witness to Christ & keep this congregation in line with the gospel as we navigate the difficult cultural landscape in which we live?
11. What does this text call you to do?

# Living Water Fellowship

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Easter – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## COME TO JESUS

### SONGS:

*Ancient of Days (CityAlight)*

*Good & Gracious King*

### WELCOME & PRAYER:

## GROW IN HIS GRACE

### BIBLE READING:

Galatians 1:1-17

<sup>1</sup> This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself & by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. <sup>2</sup> All the brothers & sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia.

<sup>3</sup> May God the Father & our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace & peace. <sup>4</sup> Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. <sup>5</sup> All glory to God forever & ever! Amen.

<sup>6</sup> I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News <sup>7</sup> but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. <sup>8</sup> Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. <sup>9</sup> I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed. <sup>10</sup> Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

<sup>11</sup> Dear brothers & sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. <sup>12</sup> I received my message from no human source, & no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup> You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

<sup>15</sup> But even before I was born, God chose me & called me by his marvellous grace. Then it pleased him <sup>16</sup> to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being.

<sup>17</sup> Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, & later I returned to the city of Damascus.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**SONG:** *Before the Throne of God*

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. What has been the biggest "shake-up" in your life?  
(The "thing" that altered the way you live most of all.)
2. How might the promise of life in Jesus "shake up" the lives of those you know who live distant from him at this moment?

**THE MESSAGE:** *LIVING EXCLUSIVELY...BY THE GOSPEL*

**OFFERING SONG:** *Living Hope*

**PRAYERS:**

**OUR CHRISTIAN CONFESSION:** *THE APOSTLES' CREED*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, & sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THE COMMUNION:**

*Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship Video during Communion: ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST (KING'S KALEIDOSCOPE)*

*GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God,  
The Risen Jesus living in you is enough! -- Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:** *Rest My Soul*

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

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