

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 11, 2014

This Week's Focus: The Gospel cannot be added to; Christ is all-sufficient. Salvation is by grace alone through faith, and not through any additional ceremonial works.

This Week's Text: Acts 15:1-19

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." **Acts 4:12**

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." **Ephesians 2:8-9**

The gospel is news that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in history has achieved our salvation...Jesus does not just bring good news; he is the good news." **Tim Keller**

Related Texts: Jude 1:3; Galatians 1:8-9, 2:11-4, 3:7-9, 3:27-29, 5:3-4; Acts 11:14-18

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Discuss how Acts 1:8 is being fulfilled.
 - What does that say about God? What does it say about us?
- Why did some brothers from Judea think that in order to be saved you had to be circumcised?
 - What is the significance of circumcision?
 - What do you think their motives were?
 - How easy do you think it is to get sidetracked from grace?
- Discuss the three different categories of the Mosaic Law.
- Discuss some of the ceremonial laws and how Christ fulfilled them.
 - How did those laws foreshadow the coming of Christ?
- What are some ways that we add to the gospel?

- Read Acts 13:42-48. What does this incident teach us about the crisis in chapter 15?
- Why do you think Paul's ministry arouses such opposition from some Jewish Christians? Reference verses 1-2.
- What is the significance of the apostles and the elders working together? How are their roles similar? Different?
- How important is it to discuss biblical truth within community? Reference verse 5.
- Verses 7-11 record Peter's address to the church council. Discuss each of the three facts that he reminds the Council of and what conclusions he draws from them.
- Who among us, if God were going to judge us according to his perfect standard, would survive?
- Is there any spiritual gain if you are Jewish?
- Why is it important to contend and contextualize the truth of the gospel?
- In what ways have you witnessed cultural colliding within the family of God?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to understand the different cultural nuances around you?
- In what ways do we see our cultural uniqueness as a kind of spiritual righteousness?
- Martin Luther said that the default mode of every human heart is the fall back on religion (a self-justification-work salvation). In what ways have you witnessed that in your own life?

Gospel Celebration:

- Our salvation is not based on what we do (Praise God!) but all that Jesus has already done.
- Rest in the work of Christ.
- Step out in faith and serve and obey Christ with zeal and passion because everything that needs to be done has been done.

Next Week's Text: Acts 15:14-35