

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

1 March 2026

Christ Alone - Galatians 2:15-21

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Kraig Neer

Prayer for the week: That we would place our FULL trust in Jesus' grace!

This week Ted set the stage with the concept that "everyone lives by faith" [in something/someone]. So whether we're being questioned by others for our faith, or we're questioning someone else for their's, we should realize that what's actually being questioned is the object of that faith and whether it's reliable. This portion of Paul's letter to the Galatians highlights the proper means for justification - that is grace through faith in Christ - versus a propensity to try and justify ourselves through works. Paul argues no one can be in right standing with God by relying on their own works...otherwise, there would be no need for a Savior! Instead, we should rely on Jesus, trusting that:

1. He has saved us by grace [without any contribution on our part] (vs 15-16)
2. He is saving us by grace (vs 17-18)
3. He will save us [entirely] by grace

Discussion Questions:

1. If we contributed nothing to our physical birth, contribute nothing to our Spiritual re-birth (John 3:1-15), and we do nothing to bring His good work to completion (Phil 1:6) - why then should we do anything? [For answer see Mt 5:13-16, Eph 2:10, Phil 2:12]. If we are to be active participants in sanctification, what should keep us from boasting about our "goodness?" [See Ro 3: 21-28, Eph 2:8-9, Phil 2:13].
2. What is Paul referring to in verse 18 when he says, "for if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor?" [*Let the group answer the first question before moving on*] If we return to the old way of thinking about justification (through works) what effect does that practically have on our confidence as Christians? Why?
3. Ted used Jesus' parable of the prodigal son to illustrate the concept of reliance on works versus God's grace. He mentioned that Tim Keller thought the parable of the prodigal son should be called the "prodigal sons." Knowing the Oxford dictionary defines the adjective "prodigal" in the following two ways, what is meant by Keller's suggested renaming? (See Luke 15:25-32)

Prodigal definition:

- a. *Spending money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant.*
- b. *Having or giving something on a lavish scale.*

Given all the talk about the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus, it may be fitting to ask the Community Group whether anyone wants to set their hope fully on Jesus today!

Reflection questions Ted shared in the sermon to help us see our reliance on ourselves:

1. Would you feel more comfortable standing before God on a “good” week or a “bad” week?
2. When you sin - what do you do before you return to God? Do you try to “clean” yourself up before you go back to Him?
3. Do you compare yourself and your level of obedience to others to help you feel secure?
4. Is your hope in what Jesus has done or in the sincerity in which you respond to it?
5. Does your faith make you feel superior to others - or very insecure around others?
6. If you contribute nothing to your salvation except for your sin that made the cross necessary - would that comfort you or would it scare you?

Quotables:

“We are saved by works, yes...just not ours” -Wesley Huff

“Earning always feels safer to us than trusting.”

“We cannot simultaneously be justified by Christ and still try to prove ourselves.”