

DIGGING DEEPER

Setting the stage: In response to attacks from false teachers, Paul writes to the churches in Galatia to defend his apostleship and address the struggle he is seeing between the gospel (salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ) and legalism (rules and rituals to earn God's favor). In this passage, he tells about confronting Peter to illustrate the difference between the gospel and legalism.

Read Galatians 2:11-21

1. What did Paul accuse Peter of in the first few verses? Why do you think Peter acted the way he did?
2. What was the result of Peter's actions on others who witnessed his behavior?
3. Have you ever changed your behavior based on who might be a witness to your actions or behavior? Why do you think we do that?
4. What did Paul say to Peter in front of all the others? Why did he make this point?
5. What is the truth that Paul counters Peter's actions with?
6. Does that mean that we shouldn't obey laws such as the Ten Commandments? Discuss why the law still has an important role to play in our lives as Christians.
7. Paul gives us a glimpse of what might be his testimony beginning in v. 19. How did his life change? What did he do differently?
8. What was Paul's final point in this passage? How could believers today still be in danger of acting as if this were true?
9. What has changed in your life and/or what have you done differently as your faith has grown?
10. What can we do to remember and live into the truth that we are saved by grace?

LIFE CHECK

1. Where did you see God at work in your life this week? Consider the following questions as you think about God working in your spiritual, home, work and social life.

How were you blessed this week?

Did God prompt you to bless someone this week? How did they respond?

How has God answered prayer?

Did you seek God's will and obey?

Did God speak to you through Scripture, a person, or in some other way? What happened?

How did God work in and through you to share your faith this week through words and/or actions?

2. What action might you take this week to draw closer to God and see Him at work in your life?

PRAY

Lord, thank you for all that you have done here at St. Philip's to impact the world for Christ. Lead us in the process of calling our next Rector and raise up a faithful leader to care for your people and grow our ministries. Amen.