

Callide Valley Presbyterian Church

[Biloela]



growth groups booklet term 3 2026

1	Only One Gospel	Galatians 1:1-10	Jul 19
2	Paul—Apostle to the Gentiles	Galatians 1:11-2:5	Jul 26
3	Justified By Faith	Galatians 2:6-21	Aug 02
4	Don't Be Foolish!	Galatians 3:1-20	Aug 09
5	All One in Christ	Galatians 3:21-4:7	Aug 16
6	As Children of Faith—Be Wise	Galatians 4:8-31	Aug 23
7	Stand Firm In The Gospel	Galatians 5:1-12	Aug 30
8	Love Thy Neighbour	Galatians 5:13-26	Sep 06
9	Watch Your Life and Doctrine Closely!	Galatians 6:1-18	Sep 13



In Term 3 we are hearing from the book of Galatians in the New Testament. Paul writes to the early churches in Galatia with a great deal of concern for their faith in Jesus. His instructions for the church are not only informative about the situation faced by these churches in the first century—there are many valuable things for us to learn as well for our own faith in the twenty-first century.

I hope this series will be an encouragement to you to bear witness to the truth about Jesus to a world that desperately needs to hear the gospel. I'm looking forward to term 3 as we continue to spend time together in God's word, and I hope you are too!

Andrew.



...about this study booklet...

- the studies in this booklet link into the sermon series at church (the dates of the talks are listed on the front cover), with each study following the talk by the same title. This approach enables group time to be spent digging deeper into the Bible text and to discuss issues or questions raised by the talk. Importantly, it also enables your group to have a strong focus upon application, sharing, accountability and prayer. Our groups are not just about information but transformation.
- we aim to provide a copy of this study booklet to every regular attender at church whether you've been with us for only a few weeks or for many years. We would love everyone to be involved in one of our Growth Groups and do the studies in that context. You can read more about the groups and find out how to get involved in one in the coming weeks at church.
- If you are presently unable to be part of one of our Growth Groups we hope you will still be able to set aside time to work through the weekly studies. And we would also like to link you to a Growth Group as a point of contact in times of need. The group can also pray for you and look out for you. In a growing church having all our regular attenders in a Growth Group, or at least linked to one in this way, is a key way we can care for everyone involved.
- You will notice as you look through the opening pages that there is a lot more to this booklet than the studies alone. It is also a key way, each term, you can find out more about what is happening across our various church ministries. This helps us all not only stay informed but also able to pray meaningfully for the ministries and life of our church family. Some of the prayer points in each study will refer you back to the various ministry articles for that reason.



It takes about half an hour to read through the book of Galatians. Here are some questions to think about as you read...

1. What specific things are we told about Jesus in the course of this letter?
2. What specific issues in the early church does the letter seem to address? What things are suggested in the letter?
3. What do these letters reveal about the character of God and his control over different situations?
4. How does the Apostle Paul (the writer of the letter) encourage the early church?
5. What are some of the key words and themes that come up in the letter? How do these compare with what you know of other parts of the New Testament?
6. How would you summarise Galatians in a sentence or two?
7. What challenges/encouragements does this letter offer us as Christians today?

PELICAN POINT WORKING BEE!

Recently we had a working bee out at the Pelican Point campsite in preparation for the Sunday School Picnic for 2026, and also an upcoming Cadet Camp...



Last year we re-painted the posts along the verandah in front of the dorms. This was an initiative of our Committee of Management.

Typical working bee activities include mowing, cleaning dorm rooms, cleaning bathrooms and cleaning the kitchen area. Many hands make light work on a typical Saturday morning working bee.



Electric leaf blowers and ride-on lawn mowers are regularly used on our working bees, as well as scrubbing cloths, paint brushes, brooms and mops.

Keep an eye out for our next working bee if you'd like to join in!

getting more out of your studies

- READ the relevant passage before the Sunday talk (and look through the investigate questions). Wrestling with God's Word for yourself before hearing the talk will help you to get much more out of it.
- PREPARE the study questions before your Growth Group meeting. You'll be in a better position to serve others in your group through thought out contributions. If everyone in the group prepares in this way, it will be easier to dig deeper, and to devote more time to application and prayer.
- PRAY for those teaching the Word; for those leading groups; for other members of your group; and for yourself—that your attitude will be focused on serving others, and growing in knowledge and love of Jesus our



kick off
this question just gets us talking about the broad subject of the study before we see what God's word says about it.



key verse
it's helpful to find one verse that sums up the whole passage we're looking at. Try memorising some of these verses through the term.



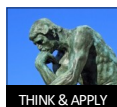
big idea
gives a 'ballpark' sense of the focus of the study—to keep us on track. It's great to get into the detail, but we also want to pull it all together.



investigate
draws out what the Bible text is actually saying. Stay looking at the Bible as you answer them, and refer to verses in your answer.



digging deeper
gives you the chance to chase up the big idea in other parts of the Bible, especially if your group prepares ahead and covers the main set passage faster.



think & apply
is where the rubber hits the road: applying it to our lives. Doing studies linked to the Sunday talks allows more time to be devoted to this vital step.



training
is an opportunity to re-inforce what we have learnt in the study through various practical exercises. Don't be afraid to have some fun and give it a go.



Prayer is a key part of how we respond to listening to God in his word together—by talking to him together. It's a key part of our ministry to each other.



church events reminds us that we're part of a church family, and that there are many other opportunities to meet together and spur one another on in following Jesus.



family discussion
provides a question for a family to discuss together—and an opportunity to share with our children what we are learning—ideal for Monday morning breakfast.



reading ahead
gives you a reminder of what's coming up next week. You'll serve your group well by preparing for the study. For study 1 read Galatians chapter 1.

your growth group

your Growth Group is a place where you get to:

- connect significantly with a regular group of friends
- grow in Christian faith and love; and
- serve one another in word and action

... of course, the key ingredient in all that happening... is being there! But that's only the first step. A helpful small group member is one who:

- prepares the study beforehand;
- shares their answers as well as their life; and
- listens thoughtfully and actively to what others have to say

How about committing yourself to the other members of your group by being there each week and doing these three crucial things?

your leaders

your small group leaders are appointed each year by the Session. They are carefully chosen to lead Growth Groups, because first and foremost, they care about your progress as a growing follower of Jesus. We're also confident that they care about working hard at understanding and applying God's word to their own lives. They take part in Leaders Meetings throughout the year, previewing the studies, being equipped for their role, and giving feedback on how each group is travelling. Leaders will also seek pastoral input from our Session when they feel they need advice in how to best care for group members in particular situations. Please value and care for your leaders as they care for you!

Keep these words in mind from Hebrews 13:17...

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith... Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

We encourage everyone from Callide Valley to consider joining a Growth Group. If you would like to find out more please contact Andrew Purcell on 0439 510 500 or Ian Wilkie on 0407 156 543.

Our Elders

Our Elders meet on the first Thursday of each month. They are responsible for the spiritual health and wellbeing of our congregations here in the Callide Valley.

Our Elders are:

Ivan Shepherdson 0429 630 562

Ian Wilkie 0407 156 543

John Semgreen 0419 028 502

Bruce Ninness 0433 226 874

Ian is also our Session Clerk.

It is our plan to have one of our elders be in regular contact with you through the course of the year to support you and your family in your Christian walk.



Our Minister

2026 will be the fourteenth year of ministry in the Callide Valley for our minister Andrew Purcell. Andrew completed his studies in 2012 at the Queensland Theological College (QTC). Andrew is married to Kerri and has four children—John, Mark, Timothy and Claire.



committee of management

The Committee of Management (CoM) is a ministry that consists of a team of dedicated members of the congregation who manage the daily operations of the Church. The primary function of the CoM is to manage, in a responsible manner, the financial and property aspects of the church. This includes preparing annual budgets and financial statements of the church and managing the ongoing maintenance of the church building and grounds including the Pelican Point campsite. Our new team for 2026 was elected at our Annual Congregational Meeting held in March 2026.

Our Committee for 2026 is..

Gavin Warmington

John Semgreen

Bruce Ninness

Greg Holzhauser

Karen Hutton

Graeme Brieese

Lyn Wilkie

Cassandra Warmington (Secretary)

Nathan Borg

Michael McCallum (Treasurer)

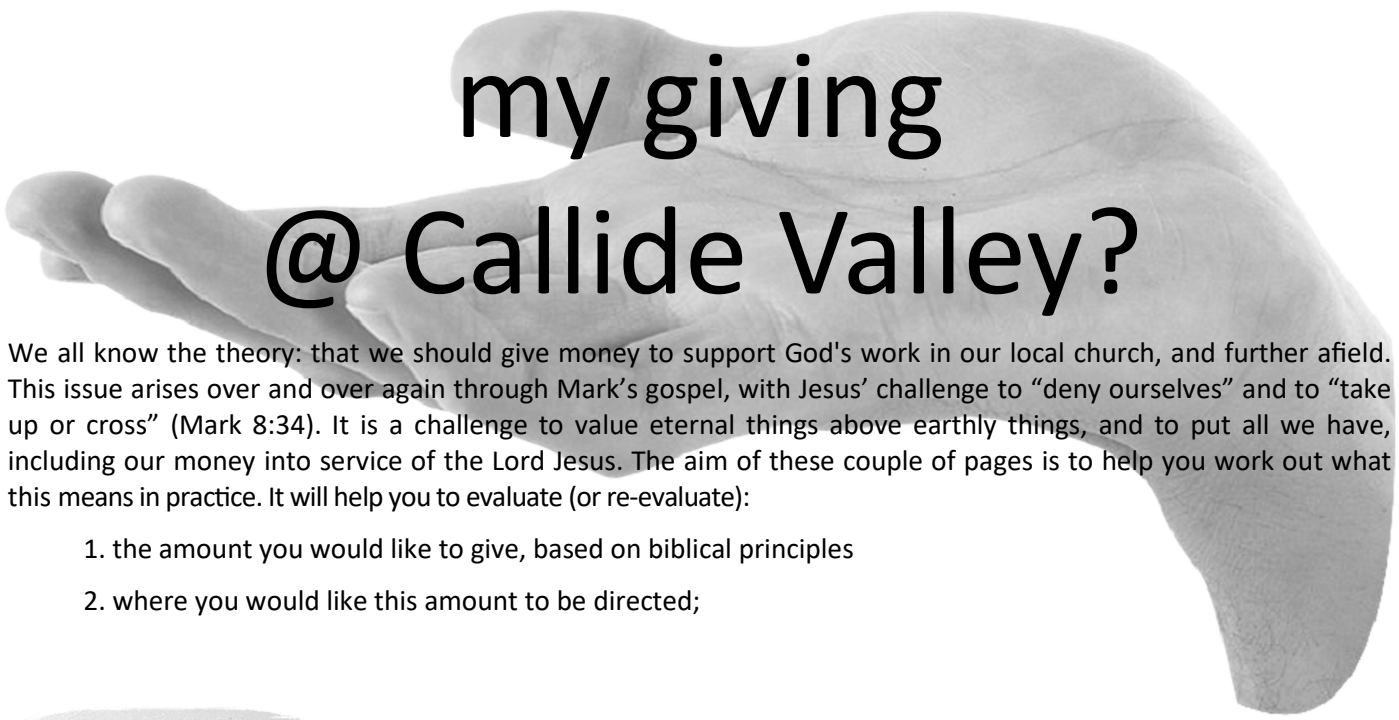
John Cruickshank

Andrew Purcell

The Committee really does need the support of the congregation throughout the year to perform its duties well. We believe that the congregation can really support one another by having a giving heart, with both time and money, to see us work to our potential.

We all have a role to play, we are a team and a family. Whether you are the Minister, member of the session, member of the management committee, music team, or congregation member, we all have a role that we can play.

Our church has an immense capacity, but it also needs the finances and willing workers to support it. Do you want to be part of that?



my giving @ Callide Valley?

We all know the theory: that we should give money to support God's work in our local church, and further afield. This issue arises over and over again through Mark's gospel, with Jesus' challenge to "deny ourselves" and to "take up or cross" (Mark 8:34). It is a challenge to value eternal things above earthly things, and to put all we have, including our money into service of the Lord Jesus. The aim of these couple of pages is to help you work out what this means in practice. It will help you to evaluate (or re-evaluate):

1. the amount you would like to give, based on biblical principles
2. where you would like this amount to be directed;

step 1: how much to give?

the principle

In the *OLD TESTAMENT*, God's people gave a tenth of all their produce to God in response to his generous blessings to them ('the tithe'). The idea of giving a tenth is first seen in Abraham and Jacob (Genesis 14, 28), and is then spelt out in the Law of Moses. It was to be given generously with much rejoicing, not legalistically or begrudgingly (Numbers 18; Deuteronomy 12, 14 & 26; 2 Chronicles 31; Malachi 3). Having received the tithe from Israel, God then redirects it to his work: to the priests and Levites, as well as to those in need, such as widows and orphans.

As *New Testament* believers, we are still to give back to God in response to his generous blessings. Indeed, we have received God's ultimate generosity to us in the death of his Son, who though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, so that through his poverty we might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). If we truly understand this gospel, we will cheerfully give as much as we can, and even beyond our ability (2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9)!

So how much should we give to God? A tenth is a good *STARTING POINT*, but it should be the starting point for considering how generous we can be, rather than a legalistic figure we must limit ourselves to. The more fundamental question to ponder is: how much have we received from God?

in practice

- work out how much money you have to start with (your income)
- prayerfully consider how much you would like to set aside from this amount to give (as a weekly amount).
- this process of working out how much to give will of course need to be repeated each year or so, or as your income changes.

step 2: to whom to give?

the principle

In the *OLD TESTAMENT*, the Israelite tithe was directed by God to those who needed it: to the priests & Levites who had no other source of income because of their duties, and to the poor.

We see a similar pattern in the *NEW TESTAMENT*, where Christian giving is directed to meeting the needs of those who labour amongst us in the Lord, as well as towards the poor. As Paul puts it in Galatians 6: "anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" and: "as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers".

in practice

In practical terms, this means directing our money not only towards Callide Valley, but to the work of the gospel further afield (e.g. the Bible Society), and to the poor (e.g. TEAR fund). It is exciting however that already part of our giving is redirected beyond ourselves to world mission. As you give week by week you are supporting our gospel mission both locally and overseas.

Callide Valley

The ministry of the Biloela and Jambin Presbyterian Churches is funded from our regular giving week by week, and a large proportion of our gift should go towards supporting this ministry. We'll leave you to work out the details of what a 'large proportion' might mean in practice. This giving supports all our work of the gospel, including:

- our minister and his family
- our ministries to men, women, young adults, youth and children
- our supported missionaries (including PIM)
- production of calendars, directories, bible study material, etc
- our ministry facilities (including upkeep of Pelican Point)



step 3: how to give?

Commit yourself to being consistent in giving the amount you worked out in Step 1 through the weekly collection at church or, if possible, through electronic giving...

electronic giving

Electronic giving is a wonderful way to not only decide upon a generous figure to give each week but to be consistent in following through on that decision of generosity, as the funds are consistently given week by week. Please see below for the account details.

envelopes

- the envelopes work on a weekly basis & are anonymous
- weekly giving envelopes will be distributed each term (simply return them if you give electronically).

Our generosity through weekly giving is how we grow present ministries and start future ministries. At Callide Valley, we approach our church finances from the point of view of not wanting to getting bogged down in fundraising activities, and not having lots of separate charges (e.g. for tea & coffee, bible study material, kids ministry materials, etc). Instead, we support and grow our ministries simply through our weekly giving. This means we rely on the generosity of our regulars week by week to support and grow our ministries. Please prayerfully consider your role in this.

We have received God's ultimate generosity to us
in the death of his Son, who
"though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor,
so that through his poverty we might become rich"
2 Corinthians 8:9

If we truly understand this gospel,
we will cheerfully give as much as we can,
and even beyond our ability!
2 Corinthians 8:3

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 064 701
Account Number: 00900325
Account Name: Callide Valley Presbyterian
Church Committee

Sunday School Picnic July 2026



Families enjoying the beautiful weather for our Sunday School Picnic.

On the last Saturday in July we held our Sunday School Picnic at our Pelican Point campsite. We had a small crowd for the event, and had about two hours worth of games, challenges, and eating picnic morning tea. The Lord blessed us with excellent weather—a fairly cool start turned into a beautiful sunny winter's day, and most jumpers were off by the time we got to the teenagers v's 'everyone else' soccer match.

Highlights of the morning were the food, the games including dodge ball, the three legged race, soccer, bible bingo, and picking up the 25 pebbles to be able to play bible bingo, and just spending time together with families!

A big thank-you to Gavin and Cassandra for organising and advertising the event and doing all of the logistics (planning and setting up the games, brining the tea and coffee, and taking all the equipment back to the church at the end of the picnic).



The line up for the three legged race—there was some stiff competition, however Claire Purcell and Robyn Letts were victorious by a narrow margin to Ben Letts and the Minister. (The teenage boys proved that 4 legs wasn't an advantage!)

The skipping rope challenge was largely an event for the teenagers this year, with others finding mobility issues hampering their efforts!



VIP-Net Jr Camp and QuizWorx 2026...

This year our VIP-Net Jr camp was based around the 'Journeys of the Apostle Paul', and we were joined by many of our VIP-Net Youth who were our 'junior leaders' on camp. The youth helped with the games, setting up the activities, running the scavenger hunt by setting up four of the locations in Paul's journeys, and preparing/serving the food on camp.



We had an awesome Tuesday night in Term 2 when QuizWorx brought their puppet show to VIP-Net Jr! We learnt that anyone can be a part of the family of God by trusting and believing in Jesus, God's one and only son!



What happens when you change the words on a warning sign?



^{NIV} Galatians 1:6-7b) ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all...



There is only one gospel —> Jesus gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age. Don't be led astray by ANY other message!!



READ GALATIANS 1:1-5

1. What information does Paul give us about himself and his calling in verses 1&2?

2. Who is Paul specifically writing to and what do we know about them from Acts 16:1-6; 18:23, and 1Corinthians 16:1-4?

3. What does Paul tell us about Jesus in verse 4? What does he tell us about God the Father?

4. Do you think there are signs that we are still in 'a present evil age'?



5. What kind of things might we need rescuing from in this 'present evil age', and who else might need rescuing?

6. What warning or 'rescue message' could you tell a non-believer about Jesus' invitation?



7. Who specifically could you talk to this week about this message?



GALATIANS 1:6-9

8. Why is Paul concerned about the Galatians?

9. What happens when you change the gospel message?

Read Luke 1:68-69

What has God done for his people?

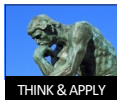
Who is speaking these words and what is the context?



10. What does Paul say about someone who changes the gospel message?

11. Why is it important NOT to change the message of the gospel?

12. How many different ways can you be saved by God?



READ GALATIANS 1:10

13. What is Paul's motivation for writing to the churches there in Galatia?

14. What might this teach us if we are seeking to be servants of Jesus?

15. What is a key message that you want to remember from Galatians 1:1-10?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members		Unbelieving friends	



Jul 12	School Holidays Finish	Aug 06	Session Meeting?
Jul 16	Presbytery	Aug 10	CAMEOH 9.45am
Jul 18	Pelican Pt Working Bee	Aug 17	Widows Group 9.30am
Jul 19	Growth Groups Resume	Aug 20	CoM Meeting
Jul 19	Sunday School resumes	Sep 03	Session Meeting
Jul 19	VIP-Net Youth resumes	Sep 06	Lord's Supper
Jul 19	Young Adults resumes	Sep 06	Father's Day
Jul 20	Widows Group 9.30am	Sep 07	Widows Group 9.30am
Jul 21	VIP-Net Jr Resumes	Sep 19	School Holidays START
Jul 25	Sunday School Picnic	Sep 19-23	CQ Alive Camp Pelican Pt
Jul 26	Combined Svc 6pm CVPC	Oct 05	King's Birthday
Aug 03	Widows Group 9.30am		



How important is it for us to remember the Gospel and not change it?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to continue to pray for each other and allow God to bring us to maturity in Christ Jesus.



NIV Galatians 1:10
10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other, and pray that these would grow more and more.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, especially those who are facing hardship in their lives.

Praise God that he remains faithful even though we do not

pray also

for Term 3 at School

for VIP-Net Jr, VIP-Net Youth and Sunday school which kick off over these next two weeks.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Galatians 1-2



Reflect for a moment —> how important is it that Paul was particularly focused on sharing the gospel with the Gentiles?



^{NIV} **Galatians 1:11-12** Whoever ¹¹I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.



Paul is an apostle to the Gentiles commissioned by God, preacher of the faith he once tried to destroy.



READ GALATIANS 1:11-17

1. How did Paul hear and learn the Gospel message (vv.11-12)?

2. What is Paul keen to acknowledge about the 'way' he learned the gospel? Why might this be important?

3. How does Paul describe his 'previous way of life'? (Who was he learning from and who was he seeking to please?)

4. What does Paul tell us about his calling/commissioning to this ministry to the Gentiles? How long has this been the plan?



5. What do you think it means to 'have Christ revealed in you'?

READ GALATIANS 1:18-24

6. What situation is Paul describing in verses 18-24, and what has caused people to praise God?



READ GALATIANS 2:1-5

7. What does Paul do after 14 years of being the Apostle to the Gentiles?



8. What is Paul's motivation in going up to Jerusalem—what is he seeking to discover/find out?

9. From what Paul says here—what are the false teachers seeking to do?

Read Acts 9:1-22

What is Ananias' initial concern about following God's instructions to him?

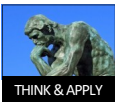
What does God tell Ananias specifically about this man Saul? (Acts 9:15-16)

How long has this been God's plan for Saul? (c.f. what Paul says in Galatians 1:15).

How long has it been God's plan to bring the gospel to the Gentiles? (e.g. Genesis 18:18; 22:18; Acts 3:24-26)



10. What is Paul passionately doing for the sake of the Gentiles (v.5)?



11. What do you think 'giving in to the false teachers' would have looked like?

12. What kinds of false teaching do you hear about from time to time in the modern church?

13. What is the best way to protect ourselves from false teaching, and ensure that gospel ministry continues?

14. What do these verses of Galatians encourage you to do this week ?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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How important is it for us to keep living the way God wants us to live rather than doing what we want to do?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



NIV Galatians 2:5
5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that he chose to rescue us through faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that our love for God and the love we have for each other, would grow more and more as we mature in Christ.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to live according to God's desire for our lives.

Praise God that he has always had a plan to bring his gospel message to the Gentiles.

pray also

for Missionaries Keith and Elspeth Campbell as they continue to work for Wycliffe Bible Translators.

for our Sunday School ministry.

for the PCQ.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Galatians 1-2



Have you ever known someone in authority with whom it would have been intimidating to challenge their decisions or their behaviour?



^{NIV} **Galatians 2:15-16** ¹⁵ “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.



We are NOT justified in the sight of God by observing the law, rather we are justified by FAITH in Jesus Christ.



READ GALATIANS 2:6-10

1. Why might people of ‘high esteem’ add nothing to the message of Paul?

2. What is the message of Paul that he’s referring to here?

3. What task do they recognise that Paul has been given, who has given it and what else has Paul been given?



4. What significant message is being communicated when in the Presbyterian church we ‘extend the right hand of fellowship’ with new elders and new ministers within the church? (What are we recognising at that point?)

5. What do Peter, James and John remind Paul not to do in all his ministry of carrying the gospel message to the Gentiles? (How might this ‘inform’ our gospel ministry here in the Callide Valley)



READ GALATIANS 2:11-13

6. How big a deal is it that Paul opposes Peter to his face ‘in front of them all’?



7. What particular situation is Paul addressing and why does it matter?

READ GALATIANS 2:14-21

8. In the face of Peter’s hypocrisy, what does Paul do?

Read Matthew 10:28

What basic principle does the Lord Jesus give us concerning fear of men?

How might this verse ‘speak into’ the situation Paul is addressing?

How might this verse inform you in certain life situations you are facing?



9. What is Paul's argument to Peter and those with him?



10. What counter-argument does Paul address in verses 17-18, and how does Paul defend the name of Jesus?

11. What is our relationship with the law when we put our trust in Jesus? (vv.19-20)

12. What does 'setting aside the grace of God' mean, and why doesn't Paul do it? (v.21)



13. In what relationships with others might we need to be careful 'not to act like Peter' acted? (What kind of prejudices against others might we need to avoid?)

Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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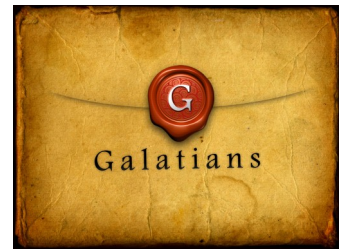


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What are some of the best ways to remember God and how he calls us to live as his people?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



NIV Galatians 2:21
21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would be rich in our faith in Jesus and so inherit the kingdom he has promised to those who love him.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, remembering how Jesus has given his life so that we can be forgiven.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring salvation to his people, and give thanks that we no longer have to make endless sacrifices/give thanks for the new covenant in his blood.

pray also

for our Elders and those who lead our ministries.

for the VIP-Net Youth and their leaders.

For our Police Force and those in our Emergency Services.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Galatians 3