

Leaders: If you haven't scheduled a mid-service prayer time with your group yet, go to bit.ly/hbcprayer and pick an available weekend and service to pray with your group for the service going on. The groups that have done it so far have spoken very highly of the joy it was to pray together for our church!

LEARN

Read Galatians 2:15-21. What stands out from the text and what stood out from the sermon?

What does it mean to be justified?

(Consider giving everyone paper and a pen and spend 60-90 seconds in silence, with each person writing down their understanding of justification. After that, use the time to clarify that justification is God's gracious act of declaring a sinner not guilty, in right standing eternally, solely through faith in Christ.)

Why is Paul so adamant that works cannot save us? What kinds of things are at stake if we get this wrong?

(Jesus died for no purpose if we can be saved by our works. God's way of salvation has always been by faith. The Law was meant to point us to a Savior, not be our savior.)

PRACTICE

How should justification, by faith alone in Christ alone, change the way you view your sin?

(It should spur us all the more to acknowledge it, since Christ died because of sin and for sin. We need to hate our sin and repent of it, but Christians should not think they're in a "hole" to climb out of through works)

What are ways you've found yourself still seeking God's approval through works, even as a Christian? What truths do you need to get deeper into your heart from this passage in those times?

(Leaders: Press for specifics, and think about something specific in your own life. Focus on the richness of this passage and draw out the truths straight from the Word together)

Reread verse 20. What are some evidences that a claim like this is really true (and not merely words) in someone's life? How have you seen these to be true in your own life?

(Confessing and repenting of sin // seeing all people as in need of the gospel regardless of their religious background or lack thereof // Seeking to live for God and not for people or self // receiving Jesus death in your place for your sin with increasing joy)

CHANGE

Is verse 20 the way you think about your life as a Christian? If not, why not? Spend time in prayer asking God to make this a declaration from your heart about how to view your life.