Belfrey Group Leaders Notes

Our Salvation: Faith or Works? (These notes are based on Vicky’s talk at the 6pm service)

Welcome:

Share something that you worked really hard for and felt proud of yourself for earning. Share something that you enjoyed which you had done nothing to earn and maybe even felt a tinge of guilt about/a feeling of I don’t deserve this because of that.

Worship:

You may want to use this song to worship and focus on the cross followed by prayers of thanksgiving. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-cd5prE4f0

Word:

Read Galatians 2

1. Paul is stating the case in 2:1-10 that the gospel he received by revelation is the same one that the apostles in Jerusalem are preaching. How does Paul prove that? Why is that important?
2. The false teachers Paul refers to as spies are widely believed to be Judaizers (believers from a strict Pharisee background) whose key message can be found in Acts 15:1. What is the problem with this message? Where do we see/hear similar versions of this today?
3. Paul confronts Peter’s behaviour in 2:11-14. What led to Peter moving away from the revelation he had received in Acts 10? How might we be tempted to do the same i.e. live in hypocrisy and put burdens on others that we don’t live by and are beyond the true gospel?
4. The key part of the message of Galatians is that salvation/justification comes from faith in Jesus and not from earning it through works/actions. This is explored in 2:15-21. What is the fear that the Judaizers had about this way of receiving justification in verse 17? Do we live from that same fear today?
5. What does verse 20-21 show us about how we are transformed when we receive salvation by faith? What does this mean for our day to day lives when we seek to be more Christ-like?

Going Deeper:

Discuss the differences between a church community based on salvation received by faith verses one that is seeking to earn salvation through works? How can a church subtly become legalistic? What can we put in place to avoid this?

Witness:

Pray for 1 or 2 people each on your heart who don’t yet know the good news explored in Galatians.

Wind:

Pray for each other in particular around things that have come up as a result of this study and anything else going on that people would like prayer for.