

Galatians *Freedom in Christ*

3. Saved By What?

Galatians 2.15- 3.5

Aim: To consider how far we really do live in an attitude of grace, and how far we try to gain favour with God by our actions.

To start with:

- Make a list of as many movies as you can where someone is saved.
- What strikes you about:
 - a. The methods used to save people?
 - b. The position of the person being saved?

Or:

- Have you ever been saved in some way?
- How did you feel towards the person who saved you?

Engaging with the Text:

1. What do you know about Paul's life before came to faith in Jesus?
2. Now read **Gal. 2.15-16**
 - a. How do you think Paul's previous life helped him to grasp these truths?
 - b. How easy do you think it is for people in general to grasp this truth? Why?

Read **Gal.3.1-5**

3. How would you sum up what Paul is arguing here? In pairs write a summary or paraphrase - then share them with the group.

4. How far do you agree that experiences of God's Holy Spirit and the miraculous help us to understand God's grace?
5. Who do you know that you would say really understands God's grace? Why do you think that is - and what does it look like in their life?
6. In **Gal 3.3** Paul writes

"After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goals by human effort?"

- How easy do you think it is to fall into this trap? Why?

(NB. The New York Times reports that in the USA members of the clergy now suffer from obesity, hypertension and depression at rates higher than most Americans. In the last decade, their use of antidepressants has risen, while their life expectancy has fallen.)

In what ways do you think as Christians we tend to try to keep right with God by our own efforts?

7. Practically how can we start to counter a 'saved by faith - but keeping right with God by works' mentality?

How do we hold that in tension with serving faithfully and using our gifts for the kingdom?

