

Grace and race in Galatia 2

discussion guide based on **Galatians 2.14 – 3.6** (linked to sermon of 28/5/23)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/galatians

Intro Q: Communication amongst our family and friends is often by WhatsApp, perhaps the same is true for you. When did you last go to see someone in person, with something to talk about face to face?

Two good meetings

In Galatians 1:18 - 24 and 2:1-10 Paul sets out two occasions when he met in person with leaders of the new Christian movement in Jerusalem. These remind me of the interviews I've had where the outcomes were positive. What were the differences between these meetings. How were the outcomes positive?

A difficult meeting

In the next few verses of Galatians, 2: 11 – 14, Paul's tone changes. Where does this meeting take place and what is said that demonstrates the change of tone?

Read Gal 2.14 – 3.6

Verses 14 – 21 are quite densely written. One trusted evangelical commentator says, "The verses that conclude chapter two encapsulate statements of some of the most significant truths of Christianity. In particular, Paul clearly states the doctrine of justification by grace through faith and defends it against the objection that justification by faith leads to lawlessness."

How helpful is this summary?

The verses from chapter 3 are included partly because we were celebrating Pentecost, in the words and songs of the service, therefore it felt right to include this in the Bible reading too.

Paul's teaching at this point (3:1 - 6) emphasises the experience of his readers as he tries to get them to (re)anchor their faith in Jesus.

Does your Christian faith ever feel like you are just following a set of rules?

How does looking back on your personal experience of God's work in your life help you when things are difficult?