



**Protecting Grace** Galatians 1:18-2:2

Ted began his sermon last week with a story about the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and the effect fear and insecurity have on people constructing bridges. He went on to talk about the effects fear and insecurity have on us as we experience the gospel and interact with God. Fortunately, we have the assurance of God's love in the story of his grace rescuing us. Let's look at this week's passage in this light.

**Getting Started**

Ask one or two group members to share experiences with the Word Project. Provide an opportunity for anyone who would like to demonstrate how they are doing with memorizing Galatians so far.

Read and discuss the following quote from Lewis Sperry Chafer.

Grace is neither treating a person as he deserves, nor treating a person better than he deserves. It is treating a person graciously without the slightest reference to what he deserves. Grace is infinite love expressing itself in infinite goodness.

We're going to begin this week's study by reviewing what we've already studied.

**Protecting the gospel of grace means that we ...**

**1. appeal to God alone as the basis of authority.** 1:18-19

**Application:** center our spiritual formation on God's word.

- What is the theme of what Paul has said so far?      How do these two verses fit in with that theme?
- Why does Paul specify he only saw two people?      What do you think Paul was reacting to?
- The idea of verse 18 is that Paul went to see and get to know Peter. What do you think Paul's motivation was for this?
- How was Paul and Peter's relationship representative of the church (Paul as apostle to the gentiles; Peter to the Jews)?

Now that we are prepared to see this week's study in its proper context, review Ted's outline and begin discussion.

**Protecting the gospel of grace means that we ...**

**2. adore God when we see His grace at work in others.** 1:20-24

**Application:** celebrate God's grace whenever we see it.

- Why does Paul feel compelled to give an oath?      Why do you think Paul did not go to Jerusalem at this time?
- What was Paul doing all this time?      How did people think about Paul? What did they base it on?
- Compare the Judeans reaction to Paul to that of his opponents. Why did their reactions differ?

**Protecting the gospel of grace means that we ...**

**3. attempt for unity with other believers.** 2:1-2

**Application:** consider grace as central to living in Christ.

- What was Paul doing during these fourteen years?      Why do you think he took Titus and Barnabas with him?
- Why did Paul submit his gospel?      What was he worries about?
- How could his race have been run in vain?      What is the overriding theme of this passage?

**Application**

Make it a group goal to have each group member come up with a specific application from the text.

- What is God putting on your heart?      What do you need to do in response?
- How are you growing in light of Galatians?      What areas of your life would you like to see change?

**Prayer**

Group members should have an application-specific item as their first prayer request. *Pray* for each group member's OneReach person and the group's Common Cause. *Thank* God for everyone who volunteers and gives their time to the church. *Pray* for the marriages and families of TCBC.