**ST LUKE’S HOME GROUP QUESTIONS - 13/9/15**

***“JUSTIFIED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH”***

**Isaiah 53:1-8 and Galatians 2:1-21**

**Possible questions from which to choose:**

1. What is the heart of Paul’s concern in verses 1–5 about *“false believers”* (v.4)? Why were they questioning *“the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles”* (v.2)?
2. *“We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.”* (v.5). Both personally and in our churches, are there ways we tend to adapt the gospel, or try to make it more acceptable, to suit the culture of our day? If so, in what ways? What are the subtle kinds of ways in which Christians tend either to ‘add things on’ to keep them right with God, or to ‘salami-slice’ the gospel away, bit by bit?
3. What are some of the things that people today think will ‘keep them right with God’?
4. How do we *“remember the poor”* (v.10)? While this is an essential part of proclaiming the good news, does this in any way ever take precedence over the priority gospel work of evangelism, emphasised in this passage? (i.e. Of sharing verbally, communicating and explaining the gospel of grace alone?)
5. How well does the following definition explain what it means to be justified ‘by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone’? ”It is to be declared innocent before the throne of a holy God even before you get there”.
6. What does the remarkable prophetic passage from Isaiah 53 about ‘The Suffering Servant’ have to teach us about what Jesus the Messiah achieved for us as our sin-bearing saviour on the cross? How does this relate to and illustrate Galatians 2:20?
7. How would you explain justification by faith to someone who has never been to church before?
8. How would you answer someone who says: “I wish I had your faith”?
9. How might we motivate ourselves, and our fellow believers, less with guilt and with more of the gospel of ‘justification by grace through faith’ (v.16)? How does verse 20 help?

Peter LeRoy – 11/9/15