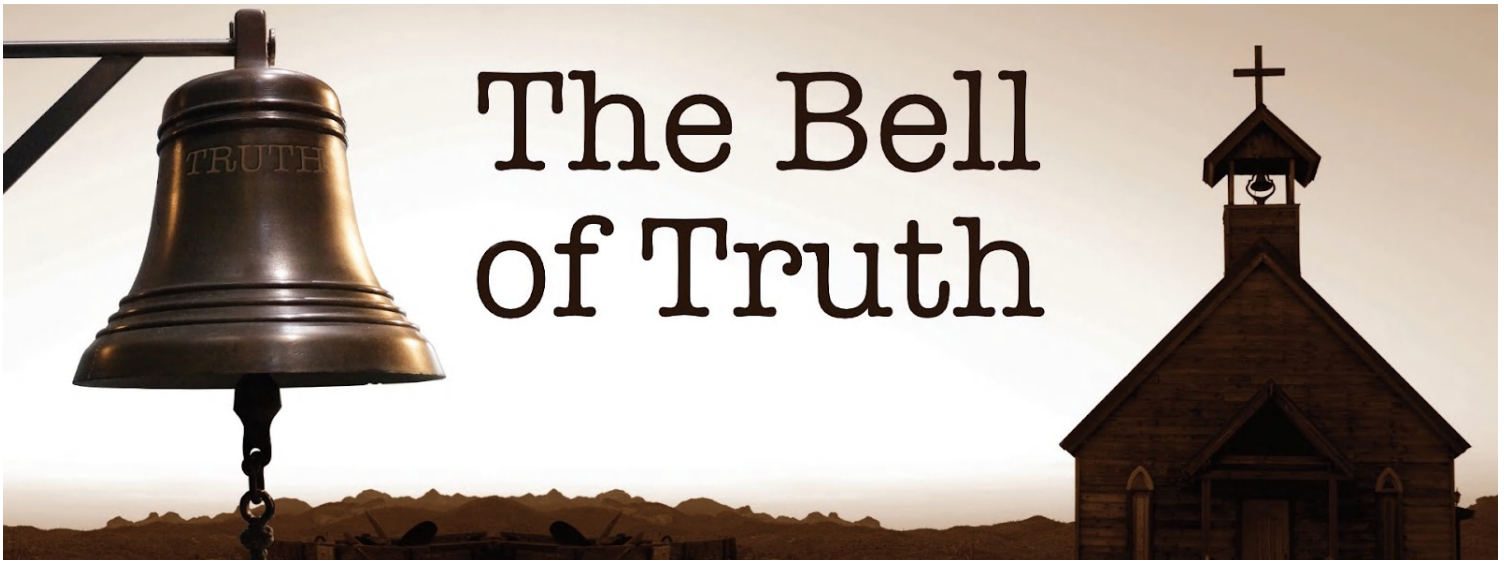


Week of December 18 - Freed with Truth - Small Group Lesson Lesson 2

Connect

Can you recall a time in your life, when something you always believed to be true, was later shown to be false? How did you respond?

Verses - Galatians 2:11-21 (NKJV)

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face,
because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James,
he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and
separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the
rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas
was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were
not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before
them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as
the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? 15 We who are
Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 knowing that a man is
not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we
have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ
and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall
be justified. 17 “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we
ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin?
Certainly not! 18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I
make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law died to the law that I
might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I
who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I
live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I
do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the
law, then Christ died in vain.”

Study

1. What does Paul mean when he says that some of the Christian Jews were “carried away with their hypocrisy?” (v.13) What relationship did Paul have with them and who were they? What was the root cause of the disagreement, and how did he deal with it?

2. Peter labored among the Jews, and Paul labored among the Gentiles. Why did their labors produce the same results? (Galatians 2:8; Acts 21:19; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5) How should we view our role in evangelism? What results should we expect? (Acts 2:47)

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** Is Christian freedom worth defending? What happens if we lose it? How far are we to go? (Acts 15:10) In what ways are we losing our Christian freedom today?

🏃 **APPLY 1:** What can we Christians do to help us avoid being carried away with hypocrisy? How are we to avoid becoming robotic in keeping the faith? (vv. 19-20)

3. According to v.20, how does Paul describe our new life in Christ? What stands out? What words of strength and encouragement do you find here?

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** How would keeping the truth of v.20 in mind help you in your daily walk?

🏃 **APPLY 2:** Christ gave Himself for you. What are practical ways you picture yourself doing the same?

Share

How have you grown in your strength as a Christ follower embracing freedom found in the grace of God, setting aside “works of the law” (v.21)?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray God will reveal to us how sinful we are, not to be tempted to think of ourselves as being better than others, or of being good in ourselves, apart from Christ.
- Pray for the power to forgive in love (asking WDJD - What Did Jesus Do? v.20).