Discussion & Reflection Question Kaleidoscope of Grace - Week 1 19th of June 2022

Read: Galatians 3:10-14; 23-29 (for extra blessings read 1:1 through to 3:29)

10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.' 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.' 12 But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, 'Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.' 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'- 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27 As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Discussion & Reflection Questions:

- 1. This letter is about Paul addressing some wrong teaching that the law (specifically keeping the Sabbath, food laws & circumcision) was the most important thing. What do you think has been the most important thing in your faith journey?
- 2. Have you come across some 'unhelpful' teaching in your journey?
- 3. While not mentioned here, Paul believes that grace is the most important thing grace is the gospel. How would you describe grace to a non-Christian friend?
- 4. This passage mentions curses & being cursed. Do you think God curses people or is this a way of expressing that people's behaviour or hard-heartedness leads to hurt & pain? What do you think scripture (Old & New Testament) says about this. How is this related to grace?

- 5. Paul speaks against division that is created by people thinking they are better Christians or others are lesser Christians. What divisions have you seen & do you see in the church today?
- 6. How might grave work to bring down divisions that exist in the church, our lives & in the community?

Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.