**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who*, *What*, *Where*, *When*, *How*, *Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God? What does the gospel message (v3-5) tell us about the nature of God? Specifically, what does it teach us about God's power (see also Romans 1:16-17)?
- 2) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)? What does the gospel message itself tell us about ourselves?
- **3) What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace? How does it point to Christ?** What do we learn about the nature of our salvation from v1-2? What is justification? What is sanctification?

What do we learn about the power of salvation from Paul's example (v8-9)?

## APPLICATION

Martin Luther said that religion is our default mode. Can you recognize this in your own life?

Is your heart more likely drawn away from the gospel by "religion/legalism" or by "irreligion/license?" How do both show a desire to control your own life?

We need to continually preach the gospel to ourselves. Is there a specific area of your life where you need to preach the gospel to yourself this week? How can you do that?

## PRAYER

Praise and thank God for the power of his gospel. Confess your religion and/or irreligion to God. Ask God by his Spirit to preach the gospel to your heart throughout the week.