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Freedom To Live For Christ

Galatians 3:1-14

By Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Starting in the third chapter of Galatians, Paul describes the way in which we are justified before God. He compares the difference between following the Law and being saved by faith. Even the people in the Old Testament, such as Abraham, were not saved by following the commandments or the Law; they were saved by faith. This week we will look at the difference between believing we are saved by faith and believing we are saved by the Law. We will also seek to understand the purpose and benefit of the Law.

Even as Abraham
believed God, and it was
accounted to him for
righteousness.

—Galatians 3:6

Read Galatians 3:1-14 (NET)

¹ You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you? Before your eyes Jesus Christ was vividly portrayed as crucified! ² The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? Although you began with the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by human effort? ⁴ Have you suffered so many things for nothing?—if indeed it was for nothing. ⁵ Does God then give you the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law or by your believing what you heard?

⁶ Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, ⁷ so then, understand that those who believe are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith,

proclaimed the gospel to Abraham ahead of time, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in you.” ⁹ So then those who believe are blessed along with Abraham the believer. ¹⁰ For all who rely on doing the works of the law are under a curse, because it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not keep on doing everything written in the book of the law.”

¹¹ Now it is clear no one is justified before God by the law, because the righteous one will live by faith. ¹² But the law is not based on faith, but the one who 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 (because it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”) ¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, so that we could receive the promise of the Spirit by faith.

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. How do we receive the Spirit?

9. How was Abraham credited as righteous?

10. How do we know Abraham had faith?

11. What is the spell or deception that Paul refers to in verse 1?

12. Why are all those that rely on the Law cursed?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. We know we are saved by faith but should we still follow some or all of the Old Testament Law?

14. Is there any advantage to us following the Law or partsw of the Law even if it is not what saves us?

15. What is the difference between belief and trust and faith? What kind of belief or trust or faith must we have to be saved? (Consider James 2:19)

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES