

GALATIANS 3:1-14

October 27, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: GALATIANS 3:1-14

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ²I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? ⁴Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? ⁵So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? ⁶So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁷Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. ⁸Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” ⁹So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” ¹²The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” ¹⁴He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

FIRST THOUGHTS

Some people love to pull a good trick on others. We even have a national holiday to promote it. Have you ever been fooled by someone on April Fool's Day? What did they do to trick you? How did they deceive you? How did it feel when you found out the truth?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

THE SPIRIT CONFIRMS IT

> Read Galatians 3:1-5

- If you have had a time where you committed your life to Christ, think back on it. We often use phrases like “put your faith in Jesus” or “trust Jesus” to describe our decision to follow him. What part do faith and trust have in our relationship with God? How are they different than works?
- What are some ways we try to use works to earn acceptance even after we are saved? What harm is there in this?
- Why do you think the Galatians found the false teaching of a works-based relationship with God so appealing? Is it still appealing today? Why or why not?

ABRAHAM BELIEVED IT

> Read Galatians 3:6-9 and Genesis 15:1-6

- What was God's promise to Abraham? What was Abraham's response?
- Abraham did not live a sinless life. Scripture tells us he lied and doubted God. So why was Abraham considered righteous?
- How does believing God's promises in Christ push us toward righteous living?

THE CURSE DEMANDS IT

> Read Galatians 3:10-14

- Why is living by the law a curse?
- Why didn't God just make the law easier to follow? Why would we not be better off with a simpler law?
- Why was it important for Paul to remind his readers that Christ took on the curse?
- It's easy to fall back into the trap of trying to live by the law. Constantly trying to meet a standard that is unattainable. When we live that way, our lives are filled with guilt and shame at our own inadequacy or pride and arrogance that we are doing better than others around us. Either way, we are denying the grace of God that saved us and will lead us home. Where are you tempted to live by the law and not by grace? What can you do about it?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

What do our continued attempts to earn our good standing say about our hearts? One of the most popular hymns of all, "Amazing Grace" describes it like this:

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come,
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.*

Personal Challenge: Consider specific ways you have tried to earn your salvation or prove yourself to God. Pray, confessing the error of this heart attitude and professing your trust in Christ and His finished work.

Pray: If you have never received the grace of God that comes through Jesus, simply confess your need for Him. Trust Him to forgive you and give you new life. If you have accepted God's grace, but continue to try to earn your salvation, confess this to Him. Ask Him to remind you that you need grace for each day to follow Him.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read Galatians 3:23-4:7.
- Reflect this week on what it means to you that you are God's child. Remind yourself that nothing can change that. How will that affect the way you live this week?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

27th – Job 18; Psalm 114; Acts 27-28 | **28th** – Job 19; Mark 1-2 | **29th** – Job 20; Mark 3-4 | **30th** – Job 21; Mark 5-6 | **31st** – Job 22; Mark 7-8 | **1st** – Psalm 121; Mark 9-10 | **2nd** – Job 23-24; Mark 11-12

Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE
CHANGED BY HIM IN A
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR
THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.
CREATE COMMUNITY.
MAKE DISCIPLES.