

“Anchored in History”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

Shortly after Paul planted the churches in the southern region of Galatia false teachers came in and taught that a person must not only believe in Jesus but also convert to Judaism in order to have eternal life. In other words, these false teachers taught people their righteousness was based on their works rather than the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. Paul wrote in order to correct this false teaching and help the churches live in the freedom they found in Jesus.

After Paul shared with the Galatians about his public rebuke of Peter he turned his attention toward the Galatians. Just like Peter was fascinated with seeking the approval of the Jews while he was in Antioch, the Galatians also were consumed with their approval too. Paul was astonished that even after hearing and believing the Gospel by faith they had turned toward the idea that they must move on from faith and be perfected in the flesh. In other words, the Galatians had come to believe that they must obey the works of the Law in order to continue in the faith. Paul challenged their misguided beliefs by asking the Galatians a series of questions. Each question addressed their experience at salvation. Paul’s point was to uncover the fact that the Galatians did not need to follow the works of the Law because they already were part of the people of God. The identifying mark of their inclusion in God’s family was the Holy Spirit; which they had received in the beginning.

However, Paul knew that their salvation by faith wasn’t a different kind of salvation that was just based on experience. Rather, their salvation experience was anchored in history. In other words, apart from receiving the indwelling Holy Spirit, their salvation wasn’t any different than the salvation of Abraham. According to the Scriptures, Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. Abraham was counted righteous by virtue of his faith in God not his meritorious achievement before God. Therefore, those who have faith in Jesus Christ are Abraham’s children who receive an eternal inheritance by faith.

This is Good News for us today! Our salvation is anchored in history. Just like Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness, so you and I, when we trust in Jesus’ atoning sacrificial death and resurrection we are counted righteous before God. He adopts us into His family and we will share an eternal inheritance with all who believe. These truths should consume us and cause us to honor Christ who is trustworthy and cause us to celebrate our eternal inheritance.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine the sermon outline and answer the questions below and on the next page. How have you responded to being counted righteous because of faith? Do you still wrestle with trying to perform for God or do you trust Jesus’ work as sufficient? Do you obey Him because you believe He is trustworthy or do you still live as though your way of doing things is better? Do you celebrate your blessings of being in the family of God or do you focus your attention on the temporary blessings of this world? Remember, your salvation by faith is anchored in biblical history!

Message Outline

Our Gospel is Anchored in History:

1. We are righteous by faith. (6)
 - Abraham looked forward to the Lord to fulfill His promise.
 - We look backward to Christ who fulfilled His promise.
2. We are family by faith. (7)
 - The Lord promised to give Abraham a family.
 - Jesus adopted us into His family.
3. We have an inheritance by faith. (8-9)
 - Abraham received the promise of the Messiah.
 - We receive the promises of the Messiah.

Therefore:

1. Let’s not be consumed by performance but rather with Christ.
2. Let’s honor Christ who is trustworthy.
3. Let’s celebrate the blessings of our inheritance.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Galatians 3:6-9:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray for families who will attend the First Steps Child Dedication class in September as well as the Child Dedication Service in October.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.