

“The Pathway to Blessing”

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 and showed them that they 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.

Paul then reminded the Galatians of the example of Abraham. According to the Scriptures, Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. In other words, 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 the blessing of an eternal inheritance by faith.

But according to those who were pressuring the Galatians to submit themselves to circumcision, if one is to receive the blessing of Abraham, he must rely on the works of the Law. Paul showed them from the Scriptures that the pathway of blessing is not through works of the Law but rather through faith. If one relies on the works of the Law for blessing, then according to Paul, he is cursed! Why? Because we cannot obey the Law perfectly, therefore, we all are under the curse of death. However, Jesus became a curse for all who are under the curse of death. And whoever relies on the cross of Christ for righteousness is blessed! Once again, this is Good News for us!

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community ask yourself which path you are on. Are you relying on keeping rules or your good works to receive God’s blessing? If so, then you are under a curse. However, if you rely on the cross of Christ then you are blessed. And that blessing of God is the promised Holy Spirit who dwells in all who believe. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside of you. Therefore, rejoice in this. Live by faith in God’s continued grace. Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to lead you every day. This is the pathway to blessing!

Message Outline

Two paths:

1. Relying on the law brings God’s Curse. (10-12)
Because...
 - One must obey the law perfectly (10).
 - Justification is by faith not the law (11).
 - The law and faith are incompatible (12).
2. Relying on the Cross of Christ brings God’s Blessing. (13-14)
 - Christ redeemed believers from the curse of the law (13).
Christ was...
 - Cursed...
 - By God...
 - For us.
 - Therefore believers are blessed. (14)

Therefore, let’s...

1. Rejoice because we are saved from God’s curse.
2. Live by faith in God’s grace.
3. Live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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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 3:10-14:

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.