

MESSAGE GUIDE

Freedom (A Study in Galatians)

Message Guide for April 14, 2019



CONNECT

So far in this series, we've identified 5 reasons people have a hard time fully embracing God's grace. The reasons are: pride, self-sufficiency, fear (as in fear that God won't come through), grace seems too easy /shallow, and unworthiness. Have you ever/do you struggle with any of these typical resistances to grace? Think about why.

STUDY

Galatians is a book that, over and over again, pounds home one primary point: refuting any sort of works-based theology when it comes to salvation. So, it's no surprise that our message text has Paul reminding the Galatians (and us) that grace and faith trump law and works. Take a read through Galatians 3:7-14 and spend some time processing through the following questions:

1. According to Galatians 3:7-9, what is your personal connection/relationship to Abraham? What does that mean? How are all the nations blessed through Abraham?

2. In verse 10 Paul makes a chilling statement "For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse." What Old Testament verse does Paul use to support this statement (found at the last part of verse 10)? Why is relying on works so negative, to the point of being called a curse?

3. Verse 11 pretty much sums up the entire message of Galatians. What does it say, and what does it mean?

4. How does verse 13 explain how Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law?

5. According to verse 14, what positive benefits flow out of the fact that we have been rescued from the curse by Jesus?

APPLY

Do you know of anyone (maybe it's you!) who seems to be striving for God's approval, rather than resting in the finished work of Christ? Why is it such a temptation to perform for God, rather than simply receive from Him?



If the law isn't useful for salvation, does it possess *any* redeeming qualities for us?

Examine your motives this week. Why is it that you do (or don't do) certain things? Are you trying to earn God's approval, or are you living in the light of the fact that you have been freely and fully accepted by God?

Why is it difficult for some people to embrace grace?