

# Galatians

## Week 5 Homework

### Reading

Read through all of Galatians once during the week, if possible. Make a list of questions you have as you read.

Read Galatians 3:1-14 each day this week, writing down your observations. Look for repeated words, attributes of God, transition words, and note any confusing or unknown words.

### Questions

- A. What is Paul's tone with those to whom he is writing?
  - B. Look up the word "bewitched" - write the definition here:
  - C. Read the second part of verse 1 carefully. Do you think everyone hearing Paul's words had literally seen Jesus' crucifixion? If not, what do you think this verse means?
2. In verses 2-5, Paul says he would like to know 'one thing' then proceeds to ask several questions. Read them carefully, then summarize here what you think is the one thing Paul was asking them. (See Gal. 5:7-10, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 4:2 and look back at Gal. 2:16).
3. The word "begun" in verse 3, is used in this form in only one other place in scripture: Philippians 1:6. They both refer to salvation. Write out Philippians 1:6 here:
4. Look up Matthew 26:41 and Romans 6:19. How do these verses underscore what Paul is saying in Galatians 3:1-5?

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5. Until now, Paul has been sharing the gospel mainly from his own experience. Now, he is turning the topic of the gospel back to his audience. In verse 4, he asks them about their suffering. What kind of suffering do you think he is talking about? (See Acts 8:1, Acts 12:1-5, Acts 14:21-22)
  
6. With this series of questions, Paul is calling them to remember all God had done for them and through them thus far. How can remembering God's character and His faithfulness to us in the past help to keep us on the right track spiritually?
  
7. In verses 6-9, Paul uses Abraham as an example that there is no other way to salvation except by grace through faith. (Genesis 15:6 & Romans 4:3). To the Judaizers who were misleading the Galatian Christians, Abraham was a hero and a patriarch. How does Paul turn the tables and use Abraham as an example of faith instead of law-keeping?
  
8. Peek ahead to Gal. 3:29; then look up Romans 4:11 & 16. Who are the "sons of Abraham"?
  
9. In 3:9 we see Abraham described as a "man of \_\_\_\_\_." Verse 10 describes another way to live, those "who rely \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_."  
Verse 12 further describes this as a way of living. To live by something means that we turn to it for happiness and fulfillment. It is what gives us meaning, purpose, and confidence in life.
  
10. I've often seen Jesus portrayed in artwork as calming the seas, or preaching to crowds, or praying in a garden, or welcoming children. Why would Paul choose to focus on portraying Christ as crucified?

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11. Read Galatians 3:10-14 carefully. These verses contain the essence of the gospel. John Stott has said, "The gospel is not good advice to people but good news about Christ, not an invitation to us to do anything but a declaration of what God has done, not a demand but an offer." In verse 11, there is a word that is also used in verse 8, what is it?

**Justification** is a big word that simply means having a right standing before God. It is a legal term. Some have said you can think of 'justify' as that when God looks at us, because of Jesus' death on our behalf, it is just-as-if we'd never sinned.

12. Notice the wording in verse 13. We are redeemed from the curse of the law by Christ becoming a curse for us. Look up 2 Corinthians 5:21 to see a parallel verse.

It is important for us to understand the depth of this. When we come to Jesus in faith, it means that I am considered righteous now when God looks at me, since Jesus became sin for me on the cross. This is called imputation. My sins and curse are imputed, or given, to Him and His righteousness and blessing and Spirit are imputed to me. Salvation means more than just forgiveness of sin, we become perfect in God's sight!

A. How does understanding this shed light on Paul's tone with the Galatians?

B. How does having righteousness credited to us change the way we see ourselves? View our life? View Jesus?

### **Personal:**

C. Consider ways you might have slipped into trying to please God or earn His favor by your own efforts. How does this passage encourage you to examine your own heart.

### *For Further Study:*

We rejoice in all Christ has accomplished for us, but it is important to remember that our actions will never be completely perfect as long as we live on earth in these physical bodies. You can read Paul's struggle with this very thing in Romans, Chapter 7:4-25, and for encouragement, Romans 8:1-39.