



TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

19-25 May 2019 | Galatians 3:1-29

The Message. If we live by the law, we are under the bondage of the law. We will fail as we will never meet the standard. If we embrace the grace of God through faith, we are set free. It does not mean we should no longer obey the law, but we are no longer under its bondage. We obey the law as we embrace God's grace.

Context. Paul continues to remind Galatians that they are justified by faith and not work. First, he reminds them of (1) their perseverance in suffering over defending their faith and (2) the work of the Spirit among them that was a result of faith. Second, he reminds them of how Abraham was counted righteous by faith and not deeds. Third, the basis of the Abrahamic covenant - which culminated in Jesus Christ - is promise and not law. Finally, Paul explains to them why the law was given and how its function changed when faith came through Jesus Christ.

Observation & Meaning

Read 3:1-5.

1. Why does Paul call the Galatians foolish?
 - a. What are the two experiences in Galatia that Paul highlights?
 - b. Why does Paul highlight these two experiences?

Read 3:6-9.

2. Why does Paul make a reference to Abraham?
 - a. How is Abraham counted as righteous?
 - b. What implication does it have on non-Jewish Gentile Christians in Galatia?

Read 3:10-14.

3. Why are those who rely on the works of the law under a curse?

Read 3:15-18.

4. Why does Paul give a human example?
5. What is the difference between receiving inheritance by the keeping of the law and by promise?

Read 3:19-29.

6. Why does law exist (3:19-20)?
7. Is law by itself evil? What are the things that law can and cannot give (3:21)?
8. Can law and promise coexist (3:21-22)? How do you explain it?
9. What does it mean that “the law was our guardian until Christ came” (3:24)?

Application

Fallen Condition Focus

10. In what ways we may find ourselves drawn back to the bondage of the law and fail to embrace the grace of God?
11. In what ways we may find ourselves villainizing the law and abusing the grace?

Christ-centeredness

12. How does the law lead us to Christ? What are the things that the law cannot give, but Christ can?
13. How does the gospel or grace of Christ set us free from sin?

Insight

According to ancient traditions, the Law was delivered to Moses on Mount Sinai by the hands of angels. Angels were the "go-between" or mediator for Moses when he received the Law from God. Moses needed a mediator between himself and God, but we do not need a mediator between us and Jesus – He is our mediator. The law was a two-party agreement brought by mediators. Salvation in Jesus by faith is received by a promise. Guzik.

Resources

- Guzik, David. *Galatians*. Enduring Word Commentary. Enduring Word Media, 2012.
- Keller, Timothy. *Gospel Matters: The Good Book Guide to Galatians*. UK: The Good Book Company, 2013.
- Keller, Timothy. *Galatians for You*. UK: The Good Book Company, 2013.
- Stott, John. *Reading Galatians with John Stott: 9 Weeks for Individuals or Groups*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect, 2017.