

LIVE FREE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

In this series we will see the Apostle Paul confronting the false teachings in the church of Galatia. In the process we have the opportunity to join these first-century brothers and sisters in examining ourselves. How are we viewing the grace of God? How can we shift from trying to earn God's favor in our own strength and instead live free by faith knowing that we have God's acceptance?

Week One: Children of God

Text: Galatians 4

Sermon Summary:

We are reminded that God's plan never included good works as part of our salvation. In fact, relying on the law for your salvation means living under the curse of a guilty verdict. The law points out our problems and directs us to God. Only through the work of Jesus for us and faith in Him, can we be part of God's family and experience freedom.

Discussion Questions: *These three larger questions will drive our discussion:*

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?

- We believe that God is working now as ever. How have you seen God work in your life this week?
- Refer to Galatians 4:1-11.
- When we are focused on rule-keeping, we make our relationship with God miserable. Why do you think that is?

What are you going to do about it?

- Rule-keeping also makes our relationship with others miserable. Can you think of an example where you allowed rule-keeping to hurt a relationship?
- To live free, we must believe we are God's child with His full acceptance. Can you think of ways you slip back into operating like we need to earn God's love?

How can others in the group help you and pray for you?

- We closed the message with a quote from Martin Luther as he dealt with the plague pandemic during his lifetime. How did his words encourage you with what we are facing today?
- Pray for each other about these concerns.

Therefore, I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God. -Martin Luther in 1527

Scripture Memory:

"Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'" Galatians 4:6

Some Possible Applications:

An important part of living free is getting our eyes off of ourselves and serving others. Here are some ideas for living out what we've learned this week:

- Pray for your family, neighbors and coworkers that God would comfort them through these difficult times.
- Follow the direction of the CDC and local, state and federal entities. Within those guidelines, you may want to consider some of these:
- Sign up on the HCBC website to volunteer to serve someone in need at the church: <https://www.hcbc.com/watch-online/>
- Go shopping or run errands for an elderly person or someone in need.
- Initiate a help network in your neighborhood, apartment complex, or workplace. Start an email chain or text thread to connect those who have needs to those who can meet those needs.
- Do yardwork or clean-up for someone in need of help.
- You support local businesses AND those in need by buying food "to go" at local restaurants and giving it to those in need.

HCBC Resource Page:

<https://www.hcbc.com/coronavirus/>

****Small Group Leaders****

Feel free to use this guide "as is" or formulated in a way that works best for your online group time this week.