



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pg 1)

Galatians 3:1-5

How does Paul describe the Galatians defection from the true gospel? In what ways are people led away from the gospel today?

Do you struggle more with escaping a religious past, a sinner's past or a combination of both?

In your opinion, how are Paul's words "the righteous will live by faith" (v11) the right answer for those looking to escape their past (of any kind)?

Does salvation by faith alone equal no responsibility to live as a Christ follower? How does Ephesians 2:8-9 sync with James 2:14?

What "Christian rules" seem to be important in your circle? Can you identify a positive purpose for those rules, or are they burdening you unnecessarily?

How does the example of Abraham support Paul's argument? (Gal 3:6-9)

Read Gal 3:22-25. How is the law like a prison? Does living like a Christian ever seem burdensome to you? What could help you become free in the way Paul describes?

In what ways do Paul's arguments apply to someone who believes that the way to heaven is to keep the 10 commandments?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pg 2)

Read Col 3:16, Eph 4:14, & 1 Pe 2:2

Do you think that people have become theologically lazy today? What do these verses say about how important our understanding of the bible is? What practical steps could you take in order to make bible study more of a priority?

If someone asked you how to become a Christian, what would you say?

What is your interpretation of vv. 19-20?

What is your response to the following statements?

1. If you have a religious past, don't let your religion get in the way of experiencing grace or living gracefully.
2. If you have a sinner's past, remember that Jesus was the friend of sinners.

Ask your group if they all have the confidence that they are born again? Ask them if they have been scripturally baptized? Follow up with appropriate questions and resources.



Leader's Guide

FREE 4: Free from the past. Galatians 3:1-25

OVERVIEW

Paul's argument in Galatians 3:1-25 is summed up in verse 3, *Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?* The Judaizers were attempting to convince believers that believing in Jesus was not sufficient for salvation, that they must add compliance to the Mosaic laws and customs in order to be truly saved. And sadly, it seems their message of Jesus + works = The Gospel, was quite convincing. Paul tackles their faulty thinking head-on by calling them *foolish* and *bewitched*. (Gal. 3:1). He then uses the Judaizers' own statements, and Old Testament scriptures in order to shed light on how contradictory their works-gospel-theology was.

This section of Galatians demonstrates how strong the pull of our old ways of thinking is. Most of us struggle in some manner to escape our past, even a religious past. Paul offers the one escape route from the past in verse 11, *the righteous will live by faith*.

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- I. **Why would you ever want to go back?** Gal 3:1-6; Pro 26:11;
- II. **Stop earning & start accepting.** Gal 3:6-25; Ro 3:20; Gen 12:1-3, 15:1-7, 18:1-33; Ex 19:24; Acts 17:53; Heb 2:2

***Galatian contradictory beliefs**

1. **Salvation by works contradicts what you know about the crucifixion.** Gal 3:1-2; Acts 13:39; Lu 22:42;
2. **Salvation by works contradicts what you know about the Spirit.** Gal 3:2-3; 1 Cor 12:3; Ro 8:9, 16
3. **Salvation by works contradicts what you know about your experiences of suffering and miracles.** Gal 3:4-5;
4. **Salvation by works contradicts what you know about what you believe about Abraham.** Gal 3:6-9; Gen 15:6, 12:2, 17:10; Ro 4:7-12; Heb 11
5. **Salvation by works contradicts what you know about the Law.** Gal 3:10-14; Hab 2:4; Ja 2:10; Ro 2:12, 3:20, 5:13 & 20; Deut 27:26; Eph 1:13, 4:30; 2 Cor 1:22
6. **Salvation by works contradicts what you know about covenants.** Gal 3:17-25; Ja 2:23; Acts 7:53; Heb 2:2; Ex 19:24

***Why people are susceptible to additions to the gospel:**

1. It feeds our "spiritual flesh."



2.

We're theologically lazy. Gal 3:1; Eph 4:14; Col 3:16; 1 Pet 2:2