

## TODAY'S VERSES:

Galatians 3:6-14

Deuteronomy 27:26

Habakkuk 2:4

Leviticus 18:5

James 2:10

Ecclesiastes 7:20

2 Corinthians 5:21

THIS WEEK, I WANT TO FOCUS ON THIS TRUTH OF  
WHAT JESUS HAS DONE, IS DOING, WILL DO...

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## MY NOTES:

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## TWO PATHS: TO BLESSING OR CURSE GALATIANS 3:6-14

# Galatians

TO THE CHURCHES IN GALATIA

WEEK ELEVEN |

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TO THE  
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## TWO PATHS: TO BLESSING OR CURSE GALATIANS 3:6-14

In Galatians 3:6-14 Paul shows the disaster that can happen when people go down the path of religious law-keeping in order to find righteousness or acceptance before God. Paul has been on this journey before with many others, and he knows how to keep us on the path, as too often, we get lost seeking God's acceptance of us.

- **Was there ever a time when you became lost? (Driving, hiking, etc.)**
- **How did you get lost?**
- **Did you ask for directions? Why or why not?**
- **What are the best ways to keep from getting lost as you travel?**

The Galatians were coming out of their pagan religions, and now they were standing at a crossroads, where they were faced with a choice of going one of two paths:

- One path was the path of faith, where they could rest in the work of Christ as the basis of their acceptance.
- The other path was the path of law-keeping, where they would need to follow the Old Testament rules and rituals in order to gain God's acceptance.

People think they are headed for blessing by following the law, but Paul makes it clear that what they really find is condemnation. This is not because God's laws were deceptive, nor were they bad laws. It's because:

1. They were never designed to save us eternally, and
2. We could never keep all of them, anyway!

The Law was given as a diagnostic, to show us that we have a problem. It served as an effective tool to prepare our hearts with a sense of need for someone ELSE to save us.

**Read Galatians 3:6-14 aloud.**

- **Can you think of any parallels to the advice of hiking or driving that could help in a Christian's walk?**
- **What part of this short passage impacts you the most, and why?**
- **In what ways do we sometimes try to earn God's favor by what we do?**

The false teachers were telling the Galatians that in order to be right with God, they needed to become children of Abraham. The way they said you do that is by becoming a Jew, which to them, meant becoming circumcised. Abraham, however, was justified *before* he was circumcised. In reality, he was still a Gentile when he was justified, and so are the TRUE children of Abraham who have trusted in the work of Jesus on our behalf.

- **What "Christian rules" seem to be important in your circles?**
- **Why is it easier for Christians to live by rules and traditions than by faith?**
- **What rules do you tend to follow, to assure yourself that you are walking with God?**
- **When you are around others who live by a legalistic code of conduct, how does it make you feel?**
- **How do you think it makes the non-believer feel?**

When it says Christ "redeemed" us, it means He bought us back, out from under the curse of the law. How did He do it? Jesus took our curse for us. He actually traded places with us....He took our curse upon Himself, and then the BLESSING of God that He deserved...the blessing of being declared righteous... came to us. Jesus was declared accursed and condemned for US, so that WE could be declared RIGHTEOUS!

- **In the future, what are some ways we can show courage and grace in resisting well-meaning Christians who want to impose their own rules on others?**
- **What are some ways we might reason with someone who thinks their salvation depends on religious law-keeping or human works?**
- **How can you experience more joy and freedom as a result of being set free from the law?**