

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

Date: 03/08/26

Sermon: Ted Rastatter / The Middle Miles

Text: Galatians 3:1-5

Questions: Jerry Shiver

In Galatians 3:1-5, Paul continues to confront the Galatian church's abandonment of a gospel based on salvation by grace for one of works, calling them foolish and bewitched. Paul reminds them of how originally, by the Holy Spirit, they fully knew Christ had redeemed them on the cross. Since then, they started believing there was still more, they themselves must do to be fully saved. Pastor Ted's message this week focuses our human desire to help ourselves verses resting in the grace of Jesus for our salvation. Ted used the analogy of running a road race to our growth as a Christian. Both start with excitement and when the finish line is close and the end near it becomes easier to finish. But in the middle miles of the race and our Christian life is when it's the hardest. Ted equates these "middle miles" to a Christian's sanctification or being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. This requires us to remain in a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Main Point: A relationship with Jesus Christ requires two things: Keeping your eyes fixed on the cross and staying in step with the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

1. In verse 1 why does Paul call the Galatians foolish and bewitched? What would Paul have meant when he says "Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified"?
2. Ted stated that throughout history it was typical for God's people to be delivered from slavery, only later to desire returning to it (Ex 14:8 & 12, 16:3-4). What was the underlying problem Paul identifies in Gal 3: 2? How might this be relevant for us today (hint: moderated religions) and how might we save ourselves from a mindset of slavery?
3. Ted stated that as believers we've been freed from the slavery of Satan but that our deliverance isn't quite over yet. Read Gal 3:3. What goal is Paul referring to? What is God's goal (Jn 3:16, Rom 8:29)? How did the Galatian's path compare (Rom 8:3-4, Jn 14:6, 6:28-29, Heb 10:12)? Read Heb 12:1-2, Phil 4:13, and 2 Cor 12:9. Discuss how keeping our eyes focused on the cross helps us to grow in Christ.
4. Read verse 4. Paul asks if their faith was in vain? I wonder how they answered? If yes, then they have no hope (so sad). Read 1 Peter 3:15, Jn 10:28, Eph 1:13-14. Share any experiences you may have had in a similar situation with an unbeliever or believer.
5. Read Paul's question to the Galatians in verse 5. Discuss the transactional nature Paul has put forward. Did God give them the Holy Spirit and perform miracles because of their obedience to the law or because of their belief in Christ? Read 2 Cor 3:17-18, Ro 8:14-17 & 26-27, Act 1:7. Discuss what it means to be keeping in step with the Spirit and abiding in a real relationship with Him.