

1. Read Galatians 3:23-25 — ***What were we before Christ?***
 - a. What words or phrases does Paul use to describe our condition before Christ? Why is it important to understand what we were before Christ in order to appreciate the gospel?
 - b. How does the analogy of a mirror illustrate what the law can and cannot do? What did the idea of a “guardian” mean in the ancient world, and why did Paul compare the law to it?
 - c. Why do you think people naturally drift back toward performance-based spirituality? Have you ever felt trapped in the cycle of trying to “do enough” for God?
2. Read Galatians 3:26-29 — ***What happens when we trust in Christ?***
 - a. Why is the phrase “children of God” such a dramatic shift from the previous verses? Why is the detail regarding the Greek word “huios” (“sons”) important for understanding our inheritance in Christ?
 - b. What does being “clothed with Christ” mean? How does clothing connect to our identity?
 - c. How does Verse 28 often get distorted by the culture today? What barriers was Paul addressing in his culture, and what barriers still divide people today?
3. Read Galatians 4:1-7 — ***What does our adoption mean now?***
 - a. How does Paul’s illustration in Verses 1-2 connect to our spiritual adoption? Which of the statements found in Verses 4-5 stood out most to you and why?
 - b. What is the significance of being merely forgiven by God compared with being fully adopted by God? How does the idea behind the phrase “Abba, Father” change how we view our access to God?
 - c. The message contrasted relating to God like a slave versus relating to him like a child (fear vs. belonging; approval vs. rest; hiding vs. running). Which one do you most often drift toward and why? How would your daily walk with God change if you truly believed you were fully accepted as his child?

Next Week: Galatians 4:8-20

Reading Plan: 1 Corinthians 10-14



GOD SAID



I HEARD



I WILL