

Sermon Series: Galatians
VGroup Sermon Study Guide for: Limits of the Law, Galatians 3: 10-18
May 12, 2024

Helpful Tips

1. Randomly assign the scripture readings to different people in the group. This gets them into God's Word.
2. Generate conversation through questions. Let the group know you will be randomly asking people questions if someone does not immediately respond. Make this lighthearted and read the room. Some people could get very uncomfortable, and others just need a kind nudge to start talking.
3. It is ok if you do not finish the lesson. If people are reading God's Word and conversing, then do not rush through the end. If conversation is getting off track, then bring them back in and go to the next step.
4. Watch the sermon before you prepare and look at any of the background notes provided for you.
5. Share the announcements at the end of each lesson.

Scripture Passages: Reference Scripture Section at the end of the document

As the leader, watch the sermon in addition to the reading the above scripture list.

Discuss the car mileage trick by someone's friends.

Starting the Conversation: (use the following questions to get people talking)

How long would it have taken you to realize you were being tricked by your friends?
Has anything like this happened to you? What was the result?
Have you tricked someone in this manner? What happened?

Have someone read Galatians 3: 10-18

Central Point:

Today in our passage of Scripture Paul was getting on to those who were placing their trust in being justified before God by how well they kept the Law of Moses. There was nothing wrong w/the Law but the people needed to understand the limits of the law.

Background:

Churches always must be on guard for false teaching. It is why it is so important that we examine Scripture constantly to stay on track spiritually. This was why the Christians in Berea were commended in,

Acts 17: 11

The churches in Galatia listened to the false teachers and did not examine what they said with the Bible. The teachers were telling them that to be right with God would require them to keep the Law of Moses. But if they would have paid attention to Scripture, they would've seen the limits of the law. This is still important to know today. Most people will tell me they think they are good with God because they have done more good things than bad things. But that is giving the law and personal effort more credit than they deserve. So, let's look at the limits of the law.

1. **It Doesn't Bring Justification - Have someone read Galatians 3:10-12**

The Judaizers were people who claimed faith in Christ but also lived as Jews and according to Jewish customs. In their view, you had to do both to be saved; to be a Christian. It's understandable why they held this position.

Exodus 19: 5

This was from the Lord to His people before they entered the Promised Land after over 400 years in captivity in Egypt. If you continue to read in Exodus, you will see that the people could not fully keep God's commands. They continued to sin and rebel against God and there was a price to pay for it.

Numbers 14: 21-23

The Old Testament went on to point out that those who rely upon their keeping of the law of God for their own righteousness will be terribly disappointed. Notice what Paul wrote in v. 10. Those who rely on their keeping of the law will be under a curse.

Deuteronomy 27: 26

He was using the Law to point out how pointless it was to depend on the keeping of the law to bring about the righteousness of God. What was the curse? It was God's condemnation. If a person is going to rely upon keeping God's law for their salvation, it is important to know He demands perfection.

James 2: 10

You could be thinking, "That's harsh!" The wording I would choose is "strict." But there is a similar standard today. Let us say you have been convicted of murder but before the judge sentence you, you tell him, "I've never committed adultery. I've never had a speeding ticket or have stolen. Isn't that good enough?" Breaking that one law will condemn you regardless of how many other laws you have kept. Keeping the other laws will not cause the judge to say, "You know. You are right. You have kept so many other laws that this murder will not count against you." If you say I'm going to be okay with God because I have done more good things than bad things, you need to know they're making an unbiblical argument. No one will be justified before God by the law. Because no one can perfectly keep it. "Then how is it possible for a person to become righteous before God?" Because *the righteous will live by faith*. Notice the righteous do not live by the law. They cannot.

Discuss the instant cake mix story:

Apparently, people thought it was too easy. That is the way some react to the plan of salvation. It sounds too easy and simple to be true, even though the Bible clearly tells us in,

Ephesians 2: 8-9

Surrendering to Jesus is letting go of ourselves and trusting He is going to catch us. It is coming to a place where we quit adding to God's recipe for our salvation.

Questions to ask:

1. What ingredients have you been adding to God's recipe for your life?
2. What ingredients have you been adding to God's recipe for your spouse's life? Your children?

2. It Doesn't Bring Redemption - Have someone read Galatians 3: 13-14

The law does not have the ability to reconcile man to God. The law's informative. It informed people of the standard of righteousness that God demands.

Romans 7: 7, "What then should we say? That the Law is sinful? Absolutely not! Yet if it had not been for the Law, I would not have known what sin was. I would not have known what covet is if the Law had not said, 'You shall not covet.'"

Questions to ask:

1. How does your family, friends, etc. respond to you defining sin for them?
2. Have you had someone assume that you are going to explain sin and cut you off so to avoid your words?
3. Why do they do that?

Once I see the law I discover where my flaws are. I can better discern how I fall short of God's glory. I liken it to a mirror. When I get up in the morning, I don't look into a mirror to see how good I look. I look into the mirror to see what needs to be fixed. The mirror doesn't make me look better. The law doesn't redeem people either. Paul quickly pointed out in v. 13 where that redemption comes from. It comes from Christ. We're told Christ "redeems" us. The word "redeem" referred to a slave being freed by a payment being made; a ransom being paid for him. In the context of our verse, Paul was sharing that people are in bondage to sin.

Romans 3: 23

Sin impacts us in that it places a curse on us. What is the curse? The judgment of God that condemns man for an eternity. People were relying on keeping the law so well that God's

judgment would not fall on them. But, no one can keep the law. V. 13 we are told Christ took the curse (the judgment of God) upon Himself.

1 Peter 2: 24/ Deuteronomy 21: 23

He did so by being hung on a tree. It was Him paying our debt of sin. In v. 14 Paul pointed out the purpose for Jesus doing this. It was so that Gentiles would be included in the blessings that came to Abraham and his descendants. Remember, the Galatian churches were mainly made up of Gentile Christians. They were basically being told to become a Christian they first had to become Jewish in practice. You come into the family by placing your hope, your faith in Jesus. That is when God's righteousness is credited to our account.

Discuss Actor Kevin Bacon gave this account of a conversation with his 6-year-old son after he viewed Footloose for the first time.

Jesus is like our stunt double. He dressed up in our clothes when He took on human flesh, and then He did things I could't do by fulfilling all the righteous requirements of the law. All we do is take all the credit.

2 Corinthians 5: 21

Questions to ask:

1. Growing up who was your stunt double? Explain?
2. How can you sue this analogy to share Christ with others?

3. It Doesn't Bring Power - Have someone read Galatians 3: 15-18

The Judaizers were teaching that the Law of Moses took precedence over the promise God had given to Abraham. What was the promise God gave to Abraham?

Gen. 12: 1-3

But now the Judaizers were saying that the key to a covenant with God was the keeping of the Mosaic Law. Paul pointed out that the promise to Abraham still stood and that the law did not have precedence over it. Chronologically, the law came 430 years after the promise to Abraham. The word "promises" in v. 16 that were made to Abraham, means "an agreement." It was a covenant. Genesis 15 this covenant was confirmed, ratified without a sacrifice of blood. Abraham simply believed what God said he was going to do. He had faith in God.

Remember the false teachers were telling the Galatian churches people had to follow the Law to be a part of God's family, but Paul said it was one's faith in Christ that brought one into his family. Gentiles did not have to become Jewish in practice but had to have faith in Christ for salvation. And when you have that, then His righteousness credited to your

account. The law does not carry with-it life-giving power. It just simply brings rules and regulations to the table. We need to know parameters. Jesus who raises the dead to life. It is Jesus who fulfills the law for us that we might have life and not be condemned.

Questions to ask:

1. Returning to thinking about Moses and Mosaic Law, I bet most Christians do not think of him often, why?

In Christ, you are in him and He is in you. The Holy Spirit speaks to you as directed by Christ.

Luke 12: 12

For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say

1 Thessalonians 1:6

You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomes the message in the midst of severe suffering with joy given by the Holy Spirit.

John 14: 26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you.

You do not ponder the Old Testament as often since you are being blessed with understanding. As we see with Paul's letter to the Galatians, we cannot ignore the Old Testament. It is full of ways to strengthen our understanding of the New Testament. Develop the discipline to read, study, and ponder all of God's words.

Judaizers were forcing the inward dwelling of Christ out by miss using the Word. You must fight the temptation of allowing human accountabilities to out weight your spiritual blessing.

Genesis 15

Question to ask:

1. Why did it say in v.13...four hundred years your descendants will be strangers..., Who would want that? V. 14... I will punish the nation... Can we really comprehend punishment for God's perspective?

Our life is viewed as a linear timeline. When I get out of school...when I have kids...when I have grandkids... when I get enough money to retire...we can't see very far can we? God on the other hand you could say see time as a see-through sphere. He sees everything at one time. He can see your birth and the same time he saw your great great... grandparents' birth. He is time is incomprehensible to us.

Acts 4: 12

The current of God's power runs thru Jesus. And that power is inside those who have placed their faith in Christ.

The difference between a fan and a windmill. Now they are like one another. They have similar shapes, similar parts, similar assembly. But what sets them apart is the way they function. A fan spins to produce air, while a windmill spins because of air blowing.

People who have placed their faith and trust in Christ are like fans. They produce a power and energy that brings coolness and refreshment to others. It might be in the form of uplifting words, advice, and comfort, or actions and attention directed towards those in great need. They have the heart to move and act, influencing the people around them to get on course with God's directives.

But others are like windmills. These people always wait for a push from others before moving or acting. They have no initiative or desire to move on their own. Such people are individuals who "lack a heart" to serve. They do not sense an inner drive or calling. They are not plugged into the power source. The Spirit of God is not in them and it does not matter how hard they try or how many good things they do. It will never be enough. It is only when we surrender to Jesus that we experience the life of God inside us.

Faithful Christians always have Christ powering their fan.

Questions to ask:

1. Are you more like a fan or a windmill? Why?
2. There is a saying "Sometimes you're the bug, sometimes you're the windshield." Which do you think Christ wants us to be? Why?
3. How trapped do you think the new Christians were when they were being told by a church leader that there are a few more requirements? If it happens to you, what is your solution?

Conclusion:

There are still a lot of people who think they are good w/God, that they are reconciled to God because they have done more good things than bad things. And that's why Paul wanted to point out the limitations of the law.

It doesn't bring justification.

It doesn't bring redemption.

And it doesn't bring power.

It only brings condemnation.

You may realize you need to place your trust in Christ and the work He has done for you. Believe on Him. Believe on His death and resurrection. Admit your sins to Him and turn away from them. And then place yourself in the fellowship of a church so you can develop in your walk w/Christ.

You may realize that it has been a long time since you rested in Jesus. Remember He keeps His Word. Remember His promises to you stand for all time. Take this time to say thank you and let your gratitude to Him work be shown in how you live; how you spend your time; how you treat your family; how you serve others; and how you share the good news of Christ.

Announcements:

Need Volunteers for the Following: Sign Up at website/ click events.

Last Week Luau at Roy Lynch Park – May 29, (Downtown)

WinShape Camp – June 3-7 (Blythewood)

Middle School Getaway – June 30-July 30

High School Getaway – July 7-11

Village Kids Week (Downtown) – July 15-18

Upcoming Events to Attend: Go to website/ events for information.

Legacy Lunch – May 16

Fireflies Night – May 19

Graduation Recognition Sunday – May 26

Scripture Section

Scripture References: **Galatians 3: 10-18** (break these verses up among the group), **Acts 17: 11** / **Exodus 19: 5** / **Numbers 14: 21-23** / **Deuteronomy 27: 26** / **James 2: 10** / **Ephesians 2: 8-9** / **Romans 7: 7** / **Romans 3: 23** / **1 Peter 2: 24** / **Deuteronomy 21: 23** / **2 Corinthians 5: 21** / **Genesis 12: 1-3** / **Genesis 15** / **Acts 4: 12**

Acts 17: 11: *"The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."*

In **Exodus 19: 5** the Lord told Moses, *"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession."*

The Lord told Moses in **Numbers 14: 21-23**, *"as surely as I live and as the whole earth is filled with the Lord's glory, none of the men who have seen My glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tested Me these 10 times and did not obey Me, will ever see the land I swore to give their fathers. None of those who have despised Me will see it."*

Deuteronomy 27: 26, *"Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out."*

James 2: 10, *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."*

Ephesians 2: 8-9, *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Romans 7: 7, *"What then should we say? That the Law is sinful? Absolutely not! Yet if it had not been for the Law, I would not have known what sin was. I would not have known what covet is if the Law had not said, 'You shall not covet.'"*

Romans 3: 23, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

1 Peter 2: 24, *"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; you have been healed by His wounds."*

Deuteronomy 21: 23, *you must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.*

2 Corinthians 5: 21, *"He made him who did not know sin to be sin for our sake, so that through him we might become the righteousness of God."*

Gen. 12: 1-3, *"The Lord said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

Genesis 15, *After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:*

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." 2 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit^[c] my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." 4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." 5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. 7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." 8 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" 9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." 10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. 11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." 17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

Acts 4: 12, *"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people, and we must be saved by it."*