



Message Notes & Life Group Study Guide  
October 21-22, 2017  
Grace Alone: Joy – What Happened To Your Joy?  
Dr. Kurt Bjorklund

## MESSAGE NOTES

Galatians 4:8-20

v. 19-20 - perplexed

v. 15 - that you have lost your joy/blessedness

1. Prioritizing external instead of internal spiritual life
2. Prioritizing consumer instead of missionary spiritual life
3. Prioritizing individual instead of communal spiritual life

## STUDY GUIDE

### Reference:

Open in prayer and read Galatians 4:8-20.

Tim Keller book: *Galatians for You*, Pages 103-115

### Review:

What was one thing from this week's message, or scripture reference, that stood out to you?

### Reflect:

1. Are you experiencing a season of abundant joy in your life, or does it feel like joy is hard to come by for you right now?

2. In verse 12 Paul speaks negatively about the Galatians observing Jewish religious practices around special days, months, seasons, and years. Why would Paul equate the observance of these religious practices to "enslavement" (v. 9)?

3. Read the two passages below in which Paul also talks about religious observances and rituals. How do these scriptures help you better understand the freedom of the gospel?

A. Colossians 2:8-17

B. Romans 14:1-6

4. Discuss the ways in which a consumer approach to faith impedes our ability to respond to God's missional call on our lives.

5. As Christians, how does a corporate perspective of faith and being connected to community impact the joy we experience?

**Respond/Reinforce:**

In this passage we just studied, basically Paul says that those who do not follow Christ are enslaved by their sin and their religion. If you have found joy and freedom in being redeemed by Jesus, spend time meditating on how this truth can motivate you to share that grace with others. If you are still not convinced of the gospel, consider how you may be enslaved to sin or religion.

**Next Week's Reading:**

Scripture: Galatians 4:21-31

Tim Keller book: *Galatians for You*, Pages 117-129