

Main Idea: Salvation begins by grace; is sustained by grace; and finishes by grace.

Church Division

No doubt you have witnessed or even experienced division in the church. It is sad, but God's people continually find ways to divide themselves. But these are usually matters of **preference not doctrine**. Paul was fighting a **doctrinal battle** in the first-century churches of Galatia. The spiritual health and well-being of the church was at stake.

Only Grace

We only participate in the process by acknowledging that grace and responding to it. The legalists in Galatia believed that God's grace was the first part, but the circumcision was the second part. They wanted a say in their own spiritual well-being and eternal outcome. Not unlike us, I might add. Paul is about to set them straight in ch.3.

Q: Why must we contribute to the process of salvation?

If I get to participate, I have some level of control – that's Self-sovereignty. Sadly, now I am right back where I started in the first place.

- ❑ **Self-sovereignty separated me from God in the first place.** Remember Jesus said in Mark 8, "Deny yourself (self-sovereignty), take up your cross (surrender), and follow Me."
- ❑ **Self-sovereignty was crucified when I decided to follow Jesus.** "I am crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20). To follow Jesus and become a child of God I crucify my own self-sovereignty and come alive in Him.
- ❑ **Self-sovereignty is the "why" of legalism.** Because God helps those who help themselves, or so we believe.

Simple Grace

The Gospel spread throughout the ancient world in part because the story is so **simple** – profound, life-changing, overwhelming, but simple. Jesus Christ died and rose again to make you righteous before a holy God. It's His generous grace gift to you. You take it by faith. Your faith is authenticated by your intention to follow Christ. **Simple.**

Family Night Big idea – Read Galatians 3:1-14

You want to emphasize to your children that salvation is God's greatest grace gift. We cannot work our way to heaven. We simply respond to His gift and follow Jesus.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What did Paul call the Galatians in v.1? What did Abraham do to be credited with being righteous (v.6)? Are human beings as good as God? What did Jesus do for us on the cross?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why is Paul so angry? What is Paul asking in v.3? How would you define grace? Why do you suppose we need to contribute to our own salvation? If we are not saved by good works, why do them?"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father thank You for Your amazing grace! We want to live lives that reflect Your grace. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet at the church Wednesday at 6:30.

Gravity: Today in both services in Velocity Theater.

Today's Songs

God's Not Dead.....Newsboys

Your Love Defends Me.....Matt Maher

Great Things.....Phil Wickham

Promotion Sunday

On August 4th children who will attend Pre-School this year will be promoted to KidsJAM. Kids who start the 6th grade this year will be promoted to Velocity. We will recognize these two groups in both services next Sunday. Look for Parent Letter at sign in.

Church is Getting a New Well

Our well is 20 years old and the galvanized piping is leaving rust deposits in our tank. Toilet water and tap water looks dirty. There is no danger to us but we want the problem fixed. We will be digging a new well but will have to wait to get a permit and then it will take 3-4 weeks for the well company to get started. Thank you for your patience!

Velocity Ski Trip

Time to mark your calendar and start saving for the ski trip! We will head to West Virginia on Jan. 17th – 20th.

PlusONE

Add something to your faithwalk this summer, especially if you will miss being at church! Check out the brochure in the lobby and ask us for help!