

Getting Started

Read aloud Galatians 3:15-4:7

If you could ask God one question this week what would it be?

Word

1. This week's reading from Galatians reminds us that the Bible is not an "easy read." Paul gets deep this week! Remember, the purpose of this letter was to wake up the Christians in the young churches of Galatia to the freedom they had in Christ. They didn't have to be followers of the Jewish law to be followers of Jesus. Paul keeps hammering this point home through the paragraphs of his letter.

2. Take the passage a paragraph at a time. Make comments, ask questions.

3:15-18: Look again at 3:6. Abraham didn't have the law (it came later through Moses) yet he believed God. He was a person of faith because he believed God's promise. In 3:15, Paul refers to a "person's will," that is, a person's estate plan. Once a person's will is finalized, it is set. Someone can't come along and change it. Similarly, the promise made to Abraham isn't changed by the law that came through Moses 430 years later. Like Abraham, we live by faith in God's promise, not by following a collection of laws.

3:19-20: Here Paul begins to answer the question: "Why then the law?" Why was the law given to Moses 430 years after Abraham believed God? How does he begin to answer this question?

3:21-22: According to these verses, how is the law limited?

3:23-29: Paul gives more background as to why the law was given to Moses. It was a "disciplinarian" or "custodian" until Christ came. How does this image help our understanding of the law's purpose? Spend time in 3:25-28. We are now children of God, so there are *no longer* divisions of race (Jew or Greek), status (slave or free) or sex (male or female). What implications does this have for life today in our church? In our world?

4:1-7: Paul uses another image: heirs and slaves. What is his point?

Share

Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

Prayer

Pray for each other in sentence prayers.

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October 29, 2017

Galatians: Paul's Letter of Freedom

Galatians 3:15-4:7

Sermon Notes

1. Why is Abraham a key part of Paul's teaching in this letter?
2. What was the purpose of the law?
3. What are the implications of 3:28 for life today?

People you want to pray for:

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