

DANIEL FAST 2021

DAILY DEVOTIONS

LIVING IN



THE SPIRIT

THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS OF GALATIANS

4th - 24th January 2021

DANIEL FASTING

At that time, I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. Daniel 10:2-3 (NIV)

The Daniel Fast as the passage above indicates is a partial fast. We are aware that people approach it differently. Some people decide to have all three meals in a day whilst others may decide to skip meals or have nothing at all on some days.

We encourage you to participate at the level that you are able. Please keep in mind the main aim of this fast is to give ourselves to seek the Lord. Those of you who have specific health issues please be wise during the fast.

Practical Guidance

The following are recommended during the fast:

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Wholemeal rice, pasta
- Pulses – lentils, barley etc.
- Water
- Soup
- (Fruit or herbal tea)
- (Meat and dairy are avoided)



Remember this is not a legalistic process! We trust that this will be a blessed time for you, individually and collectively, for the participating Churches as we seek God together and learn about *Living in the Spirit*.

I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 (HCSB)

GUIDELINES

In these 21 days of praying and fasting, we will explore Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia. We hope that this booklet will stimulate your appetite to delve into the scriptures yourself.

Each day provides:

A portion of scripture to **read** and a comment or note for the day.

This is followed by:

Ponder



- something to **ponder**

Praise



- why you might want to **praise** God

Pray



- some **prayer** points for meditation and reflection

Proclaim



- and finally, a truth of God's word to **proclaim** as part of a process of writing it on your heart.

Sunday provides an opportunity to reflect on the previous six days.

So, grab your bible, notebook and pen and be prepared for the impact that these three weeks will have upon your life.

Daniel Fast: Introduction

As we have come to the end of Acts it is appropriate that we start our new year checking in on one of the churches we saw Paul start during our journey through Acts. In roughly 47-49 AD Paul visited Galatia, we followed his travels in Acts 13:14 - 14:24. During this time he helped start several churches in the region of Galatia.

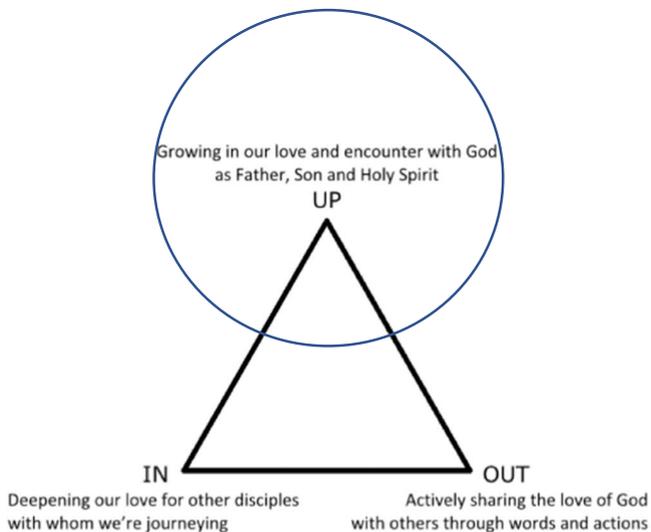
It is believed that in 53-54 AD, whilst in Ephesus, Paul wrote a passionate letter to the churches he founded in Galatia. During the first three weeks of this year, we will be reading Paul's letter to the Galatians.

During our time we as one church will ponder over Paul's words, as the Galatians would have when they first received the letter. Together we will take time to listen to Paul's words of warning, encouraging us all to reconsider our own views of religion and faith. We will consider if, like the Galatians who slipped into enforcing religious laws of circumcision, we too have forgotten God's words of freedom and love.

We will again hear Paul's own journey from religious enforcer, to faithful son of the Most High God. Whilst reflecting on our own journey from sinner, to saint. Thanking God for the times He brought us through, the forgiveness He gave, and the gospel He wrote for us. Together, we will thank Him that it is Him, and Him alone who we live for. His faith, mercy, and love. And that during this time He will open our eyes to the times where we, like the Galatians, have sought other people's approval.

We look forward to hearing and seeing what God does in each of our lives during this year's Daniel Fast.

Week 1: Galatians 1 - Living the Gospel

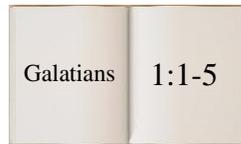


Throughout this week we will focus on our vertical relationship with the Father and be reflecting upon our true identity and authority that come from being united with Christ. We will take time to assess whether we are living to please the Father as our main priority or if we allow other peoples views or our own comfort to be our focus. As we do so, we want to fundamentally ensure, as Paul was indicating to the Galatian believers that we are walking in the freedom and intimate relationship with the Father purchased by Christ rather than slipping into religious observation.

As we go through this week may your knowledge and appreciation of your relationship with God be encouraged and established upon the truth of who Christ is and what He has done. May thankfulness and unwavering confidence in the truth and the message of the Gospel be renewed in your heart and may the journey of repentance lead you to fresh faith in Him.

Monday, 4th January – Father’s Eternal Plan

Galatians 1:1-5 (NLT)



¹ This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. ² All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia. ³ May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. ⁴ Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. ⁵ All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

Thought for the day

The introduction to Galatians clearly shows that God has a plan for His Church, for humanity, and for each of us as individuals. The Father planned for our rescue through Jesus’ sacrifice. We receive this by His grace – divine abilities. This is the foundation of our identity and authority.

Ponder



Paul recognised his appointment and that it came from God. Do you know and recognise who God has called you to be and what He has asked you to do? Reflect on where God has brought you from.

Praise



Thank the Father for your true identity in Christ.
- that your authority is rooted in Christ.
- for his Salvation plan and His work in your life.
for his promises to you specifically give glory to God for his plan.

Pray



In what areas do you need to receive God's grace and peace? Acknowledge and receive God’s grace and peace

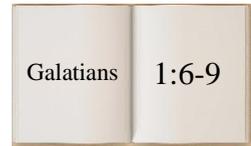
Proclaim



Christ’s sacrifice and victory over sin and death fulfilled the Father’s eternal plan. Now we get to live freely and fully for Him. [Adapted from Galatians 1:4]

Tuesday 5th January – No Other Gospel

Galatians 1:6-9 (NLT)



⁶ I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News ⁷but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. ⁸ Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. ⁹ I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

Thought for the day

There has and will always be contention over the Gospel. The enemy desires to deceive us from the full truth of the Good News. In the days we live as we see with the Galatian church, we need to be sure of what we believe so that we are not deceived by variant doctrinal claims and controversies. The message of the gospel must be defended and protected very strongly, without compromise.

Ponder



How would you define the Good News?

What are the challenges to the Good News in our day, and in our culture?

How can you stand for the truth of the Good News?

Praise



Thank the Father for His loving mercy and patience with us
Thank the Father for the truth of the Good News

Pray



Pray for the spirit of wisdom and discernment to distinguish truth from error

Pray that we would not give any opportunity for deception to take root

Pray for boldness to stand up for the Good News

Proclaim

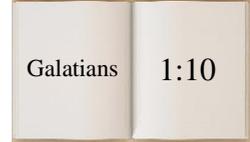


Christ's sacrifice and victory over sin and death fulfilled the Father's eternal plan. Now we get to live freely and fully for Him. [Adapted from Galatians 1:4]

Wednesday 6th January – Who are we pleasing?

Galatians 1:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.



Thought for the day

Within our society today there are so many pressures to be seen in certain ways or to meet people's approval. This is where we, as believers need to be reminded of our identity as children of the Father. We all need to assess our hearts and determine whether pleasing God is the primary force behind our actions.

Ponder



Where do you seek approval from? (e.g. achievement, family, social media, peers, people in authority)

Is your service coming from the right foundation? Are you doing this because you know you are loved or are you seeking His approval?

Praise



Thank the Father for His acceptance of you
Thank the Father that He has called you His Child
Thank the Father that you get to serve Him freely

Pray



For a deeper revelation of the Father's acceptance of you
(Zephaniah 3 v 17)

To uproot any negative mindsets where you seek approval wrongfully from God or others

For a greater desire to please the Father and any fear of man would be broken

Proclaim

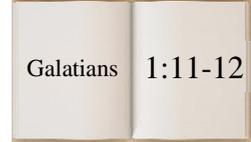


Christ's sacrifice and victory over sin and death fulfilled the Father's eternal plan. Now we get to live freely and fully for Him. [Adapted from Galatians 1:4]

Thursday 7th January – Origin of the Gospel

Galatians 1:11-12 (NLT)

¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. ¹² I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.



Thought for the day

We cannot just intellectually understand the truth of the gospel but must encounter who Jesus is and what He has done. We each, individually, have our unique experience of when we decided to follow Jesus – but the message is the same.

Ponder



Remind yourself of how you came to be a disciple of Jesus. How is the Good News continuing to impact every area of your life?

Praise



Give thanks to the Father for being the origin of the Gospel. Give thanks for the revelation of the Gospel. Give thanks for the unchanging message of the Gospel and its eternal impact.

Pray



We grow in our understanding of the gospel. That it impacts every area of our lives.

Proclaim



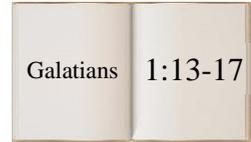
Christ's sacrifice and victory over sin and death fulfilled the Father's eternal plan. Now we get to live freely and fully for Him. [Adapted from Galatians 1:4]

Friday 8th January – Religion to Relationship

Galatians 1:13-17 (NLT)

¹³ You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

¹⁵ But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvellous grace. Then it pleased him ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. ¹⁷ Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.



Thought for the day

There is a real difference between religion and a relationship. Religion is man's effort to get right with God through rituals and regulations. Whereas a relationship is becoming a child of God by accepting His love and forgiveness as a gift of His grace.

Ponder



Are there areas of life I have slipped into religion?
Am I trying to earn God’s love through what I do?

Thank the Father that He freed us from the bondage of religion.

Thank Him that He reached out to us through Christ.

Praise



Thank Him that we have been brought into an eternal relationship with Him.

Pray



-For a fresh understanding of the impact of His grace on your life.

-that we will walk in greater freedom from religious mindsets.

Take communion as a reminder of your relationship with Christ.

Proclaim

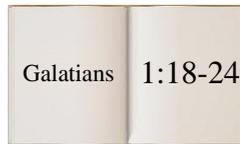


Christ’s sacrifice and victory over sin and death fulfilled the Father’s eternal plan. Now we get to live freely and fully for Him. [Adapted from Galatians 1:4]

Saturday 9th January – Persecutor to Preacher

Galatians 1:18-24 (NLT)

¹⁸ Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹ The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie. ²¹ After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And still the Christians in the churches in Judea didn't know me personally. ²³ All they knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!" ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.



Thought for the day

Who could have imagined how God would change and use Saul? We can easily disregard those around us and even ourselves by focusing on current situations or character traits, rather than the capacity of the Gospel to transform.

Ponder



Think of someone you know who seems far from God. What would it look like for them to be transformed?

Have you discounted yourself from being used by Him for any reason?

Praise



Praise

Thank the Father for the transformative power of the Gospel.
Thank the Father for change that He has brought in your life.

Pray



Pray

Pray for a greater compassion for those around us.

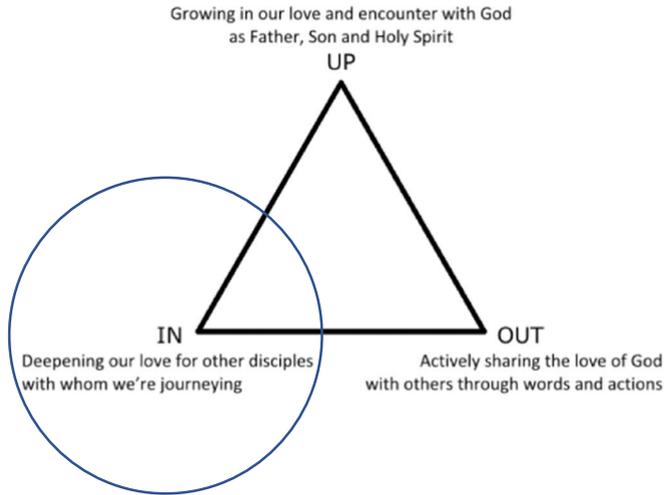
Ask him to open your eyes to see ourselves and others the way He sees us.

Proclaim



Christ's sacrifice and victory over sin and death fulfilled the Father's eternal plan. Now we get to live freely and fully for Him. [Adapted from Galatians 1:4]

Week 2: Galatians 2 - Living as an Authentic Community

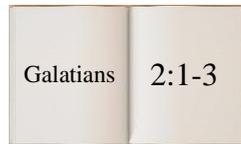


During this week we will be looking at how our horizontal relationships with people can impact on our relationship with God. We will see how we have been called to live in community and recognise the various blessings and challenges that this can bring. As part of this we will consider a culture of honour where we can honour our leaders and each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. In addition to this, we will recognise just as Paul and Peter did that, they were united in the spreading of the same message of the Gospel but had different missional focus'. We will see how at times we may have to confront one another healthily when we are not living in alignment with the truth we proclaim. Then, we will have a time to reflect on our righteousness. Questioning why we do things, for God, or for the approval of others. Above all, we will remember that it is God who has made us righteous, and only God.

Monday 11th January – Foundation of Agreement

Galatians 2:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Then fourteen years later I went back to Jerusalem again, this time with Barnabas; and Titus came along, too. ² I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I met privately with those considered to be leaders of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing. ³ And they supported me and did not even demand that my companion Titus be circumcised, though he was a Gentile.



Thought for the day

It is clear from scripture that agreement is an essential key to people being able to work together for a common purpose. The issue of circumcision was one that had created controversy and disagreement. The culture of honour between key leaders is very important as it sets the culture for the rest of the group. This can be being clear on our agreement doctrinally and yet honouring one another's different traditions and backgrounds.

Ponder



What does the culture of Honour look like?

Who can you show honour to today? (e.g. A leader, A colleague, another believer)

Praise



Thank the Father for the diversity of the body of Christ in Ipswich

Thank the Father for the unity He has and is bringing amongst us all.

Pray



Pray for a continued unity and a spirit of agreement across Ipswich church leaders.

Ask the Father to identify any barriers that prevents agreement

Thank the Father for the power of agreement

Thank the Father for leaders you work with/alongside

Proclaim

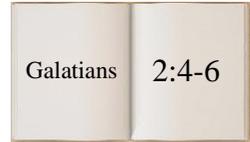


We have been crucified with Christ. We no longer live, but Christ lives in us. So, we live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

[Adapted from Galatians 2:20]

Tuesday 12th January – Preserving the Truth

Galatians 2:4-6 (NLT)



⁴ Even that question came up only because of some so-called Christians there—false ones, really—who were secretly brought in. They sneaked in to spy on us and take away the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. They wanted to enslave us and force us to follow their Jewish regulations. ⁵ But we refused to give in to them for a single moment. We wanted to preserve the truth of the gospel message for you. ⁶ And the leaders of the church had nothing to add to what I was preaching. (By the way, their reputation as great leaders made no difference to me, for God has no favourites.)

Thought for the day

The enemy will always seek to undermine and distort the truth of the Gospel and attempts to bring us back into a position of slavery. He uses people to do this and this can even be other Christians. Therefore, we need to stand fast in the liberty Christ has brought us and refute any lie the enemy may seek to use.

Ponder



In what ways can we stand for truth?

What could that look like for you in your everyday life? (at work, at home, amongst colleagues)

Praise



Thank the Father for the freedom you experience in Christ
(List areas to help you give thanks)

Pray



Ask the Father to reveal any secret plan of the enemy

Ask the Father to reveal anybody who is vulnerable at this time to coming under bondage

Pray for courage and discernment for leaders to preserve the truth and protect the flock

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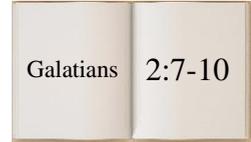


Proclaim We have been crucified with Christ. We no longer live, but Christ lives in us. So, we live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us. [Adapted from Galatians 2:20]

Wednesday 13th January – Co-workers for the Gospel: Same Message, Different Missions

Galatians 2:7-10 (NLT)

⁷ Instead, they saw that God had given me the responsibility of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the responsibility of preaching to the Jews. ⁸ For the same God who worked through Peter as the apostle to the Jews also worked through me as the apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹ In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews. ¹⁰ Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do.



Thought for the day

Humanity seems to be divided into Jews and non-Jews. Paul is entrusted with taking the Gospel to the non-Jews and Peter to Jews.

Each recognises and honours the assignments of the other.

Our gifts and callings may be different within the Family of God, but God's heart calls for us to respect and honour one another no matter our mission-field.

Ponder



Do I recognise what I have been entrusted with?

What does it look like to recognise and honour what others have been entrusted with?

Praise



Thank the Father for His calling upon our lives individually and collectively

Pray



We recognise the callings of God in our brothers and sisters. Help us to develop a culture of recognition, honour and support of one another.

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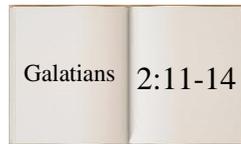


We have been crucified with Christ. We no longer live, but Christ lives in us. So, we live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

[Adapted from Galatians 2:20]

Thursday 14th January – Confronting Culture (dealing with the fear of man)

Galatians 2:11-14 (NLT)



¹¹ But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. ¹² When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile Christians, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. ¹³ As a result, other Jewish Christians followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?"

Thought for the day

Sometimes we find that our fellow believers can easily slip into the mindset of focusing on the outward appearance of their relationship with God. We can support one another by reminding each other of our identity in Christ, that it is not by works we are called but through faith.

Ponder



Think of a time where a fellow believer had slipped into a religious mindset, how did you challenge it?

Did you react in emotions/ influence of others, or did you respond through the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

Praise



Thank the Father that He puts us into communities and enables His real love can be expressed to each other.

Thank the father for the companionship of the Holy Spirit, who guides us in times of correction.

Pray



Ask the Father to highlight times when you have reacted to someone through emotions or influence of others.

Ask Him to show you ways that you can reconcile the relationship.

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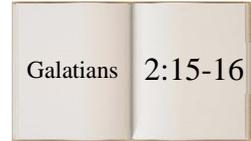


We have been crucified with Christ. We no longer live, but Christ lives in us. So, we live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

[Adapted from Galatians 2:20]

Friday 15th January – Faith Identity

Galatians 2:15-16 (NLT)



¹⁵ “You and I are Jews by birth, not ‘sinners’ like the Gentiles. ¹⁶ Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.”

Thought for the day

No one – Jews or Gentiles - gets right with God by any rule-keeping, self-improvement, or by trying to be good.

Christ’s faithfulness, not ours, has saved us, and we have received God’s perfect righteousness.

There is only one way of getting right with God – faith in Christ!

Ponder



How does it look to be saved and right with God?

Praise



Praise God for making the way of salvation
His faithfulness

Pray



May this revelation be a reality in our daily in Christ

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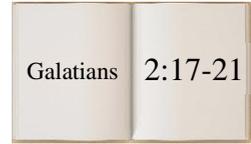


We have been crucified with Christ. We no longer live, but Christ lives in us. So, we live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.
[Adapted from Galatians 2:20]

Saturday 16th January – Made Right by Faith

Galatians 2:17-21 (NLT)

¹⁷ But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down. ¹⁹ For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God. ²⁰ My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.



Thought for the day

On what basis have we been made righteous? It is clear from today's text that the sacrifice of Christ and our need and submission to it is the only way that we can be made right with God and enter a living relationship with Him. This is because of His love and mercy to His creation. The grace of God is what we need to rely upon to live this Christian life.

Ponder



How do we continue to walk in that righteous standing? How do we live a life that is crucified to self and alive to Christ?

Praise



Thank the Father that our old life has gone and He has given us a new life in Christ.

Thank the Father for His grace to live for Christ each day

Pray



Repent of any legalism or self-reliance that has crept in
Repent of any way we have taken His grace for granted
Pray for a fresh revelation of His grace and receive and accept it (please remember this is a continual journey and process)
Ask the father to guide us in His grace to be living fully in this new life

Proclaim



We have been crucified with Christ. We no longer live, but Christ lives in us. So, we live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

[Adapted from Galatians 2:20]

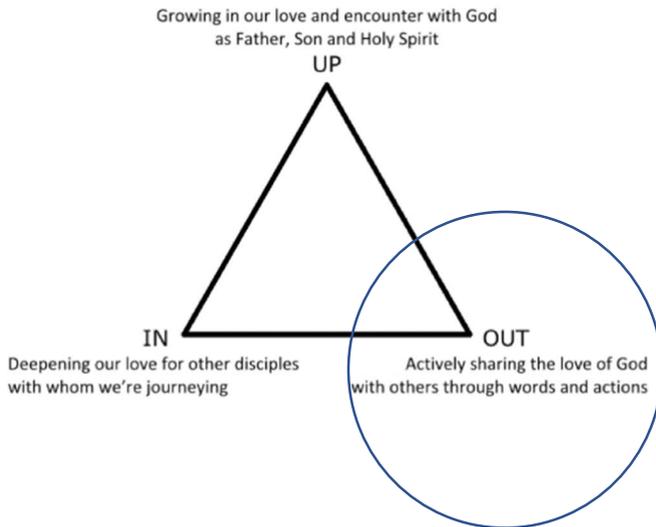
Sunday 17th January - Review of **Galatians 2**

Living as an authentic Community

Today is an opportunity to reflect on what God has been doing and saying to you throughout the week. You are encouraged to write your thoughts below and discuss them with others.

- i. What does the culture of honour look like in our community of faith?
- ii. In relation to our faith, what would you consider to be non-negotiable?
- iii. What are some of the tools the enemy uses to promote lies?
- iv. How has agreement and disagreement impacted the local church?
- v. How can we resolve conflicts healthily?

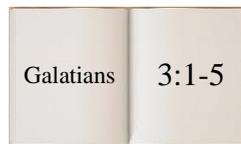
Week 3: Living by Faith



During this last week we will be looking at the foundations of our faith and how we share it with others. This comes from the belief that fundamentally the blessing and promises we inherit are not meant to be kept to ourselves but to be shared with others who don't yet know God. The world may view faith as observing rules and religious practices or as unnecessary as they try to live a 'good life'. However, throughout this week we identify that it is faith alone that makes us acceptable and adopted into the family of God. May this week help us to be clear on the benefits of the faith we profess and cause us to think and share with those we desire to be part of Father's family.

Monday 18th January – Made right with God by Faith

Galatians 3:1-5 (NLT)



¹ Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. ² Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. ³ How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? ⁴ Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? ⁵ I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.

Thought for the day

We are cautioned by the example of the Galatian Church that it is possible to start well on a good foundation believing absolutely that the sacrifice of Christ's death is enough. Then after some time we then go back into legalism (trying to attain our righteousness through obeying the law).

Ponder



Why do think many people are prone to thinking that it is by our effort that we can please God?

Praise



Give thanks for realising it is not by human effort or works but by grace.

Thank God for the perfect sacrifice of Christ.

Pray



Friends and family members who do not know the truth will embrace it.

Pray that the lie of the enemy over their hearts will be broken.

Pray for any prodigals in your family, friendship group, colleagues.

Proclaim



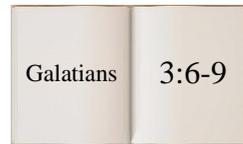
No one can find acceptance with God by obeying the Law. Only those who are made right with God through faith shall live.

[adapted from Galatians 3:11]

Tuesday 19th January – Inheritance by Faith

Galatians 3:6-9 (NLT)

⁶In the same way, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” ⁷The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. ⁸What’s more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would declare the Gentiles to be righteous because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, “All nations will be blessed through you.” ⁹So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.



Thought for the day

The plan and purpose of God is that Jew and Gentile alike accept their right standing with him through faith alone just as Abraham did. We walk in the blessings of our inheritance as those adopted into Father’s family by faith.

Ponder



In what specific area and way is Father asking you to believe him?

How can you share the blessing of faith with others?
(through example, stories, sharing the good news)

Praise



Thank the Father for our inheritance in Christ - e.g. right relationship, peace, joy

Thank the Father for the gift of faith

Thank the Father that like Abraham you are called to be a blessing to those around you

Pray



That any veil covering a friend's/family member/colleagues' eyes to the Good News would be removed

That your friend's/family members/colleagues would receive the gift of faith

Pray for the nations as an inheritance (Psalm 2:8) (Israel, your own nation, nation God puts on your heart)

Proclaim



No one can find acceptance with God by obeying the Law. Only those who are made right with God through faith shall live. [adapted from Galatians 3:11]

Wednesday 20th January – Blessed by Faith

Galatians 3:10-14

Galatians 3:10-14 (NLT)

¹⁰ But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law.” ¹¹ So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” ¹² This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, “It is through obeying the law that a person has life.” ¹³ But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴ Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

Thought for the day

God’s law comes as one whole, if you break a single aspect of the law of God, it means you have broken all of it and come under a curse. Therefore, Christ came to rescue us from the impossible burden of obedience to the law. By putting our full trust in Him (by faith) we are blessed.

Ponder



Why is this matter so important and foundational in our belief? This is one of the main distinguishing differences between following Christ and any other world religion or philosophy.

Praise



Thank Father that in Christ He has freed us from the curse.
Thank Him that He has blessed us by giving us The Holy Spirit.

Pray



Pray for all those you know who think that by their good works they can be made righteous.
Pray that their eyes will be open and that they will have faith to accept what Christ done for them.
Pray for boldness to share this simple yet profound truth with so many people you know.

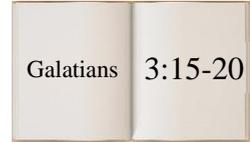
Proclaim



No one can find acceptance with God by obeying the Law. Only those who are made right with God through faith shall live.
[adapted from Galatians 3:11]

Thursday 21st January – The Promise by Faith

Galatians 3:15-20 (NLT)



¹⁵ Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. ¹⁶ God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say "to his children," as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says "to his child"—and that, of course, means Christ. ¹⁷ This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be cancelled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise. ¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. ²⁰ Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham.

Thought for the day

The Father keeps His promise by sending Jesus who is our mediator, this means He is our Saviour and conciliator. Christ is the seed through whom the promise is fulfilled.

Ponder



What does the passage show us about the purpose of the law?

What would happen to humanity if God did not keep His word?

Praise



Thank you, Father, for keeping your promises to us.

Thank you, Father, for the promise of Jesus who is our mediator

Thank Jesus for not giving up on us.

Pray



That we will be his hands and feet to others

That people's sinfulness will be revealed to them

That they will understand Jesus as the mediator and Saviour.

Proclaim



No one can find acceptance with God by obeying the Law.

Only those who are made right with God through faith shall live. [adapted from Galatians 3:11]

Friday 22nd January – Life by Faith (God’s law and God’s promises)

Galatians 3:21-24 (NLT)

²¹ Is there a conflict, then, between God’s law and God’s promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. ²² But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. ²³ Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. ²⁴ Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.



Thought for the day

The law brought obedience through obligation, but this new life causes us to live and obey the Father through love and faith in Him. We now live in the freedom of His grace.

Ponder



Think about how the world may see faith as an obligation? How can we show them that the life we enjoy is founded upon the freedom of His grace?

Praise



Thank the Father that we are no longer prisoners to sin. Thank the Father that we are free in Christ. Thank Him that we do not live through obligation but through faith in Him.

Pray



Ask the father to show you ways in which you live in obligation rather than a desire for Him. Pray that His freedom and grace will be shown to you in those areas.

Pray for any non-believer you know that may see a commitment to God as obligation. Pray that through the way we live, non-believer will see the freedom the gospel brings.

Proclaim



No one can find acceptance with God by obeying the Law. Only those who are made right with God through faith shall live. [adapted from Galatians 3:11]

Saturday 23rd January – The way of Faith

Galatians 3:25-29 (NLT)



²⁵ And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. ²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on the character of Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are His heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

Thought for the day

When we accept God as our Father and accept His invitation to become adopted by Him, we share in that adoption with everyone who believes in God. We, therefore, must adopt His way of seeing our brothers and sisters, and those who have yet to accept God's invitation into the family.

Ponder



Do you struggle to see non-Christians the way that God sees them, as potential brothers and sisters who need a nudge in accepting God's invitation?

Praise



Thank God that He accepts us all into His family, no matter who we are, what we've done, or where we came from. Thank the Father that we have put on the character of Christ.

Thank the Father that we are one in Christ.

Pray



Ask God to give you a name of someone who is struggling to accept God's invitation.

That through unity we will be witnesses to non-believers, in standing against the injustice of sexism, racism, and any form of discrimination.

Proclaim



No one can find acceptance with God by obeying the Law. Only those who are made right with God through faith shall live. [adapted from Galatians 3:11]

Sunday 24th January - Review of **Galatians 3**

Living by faith

Today is an opportunity to reflect on what God has been doing and saying to you throughout the week. You are encouraged to write your thoughts below and discuss them with others.

- i. Can you think of any stumbling blocks we as churches put in the way of non-believers?
- ii. Have you got a heart of compassion for non-believers?

Think about those you know who started off in the faith with you and have walked away.

- iii. Who are the prodigals you can pray/reach out to?
- iv. What lies need to be broken over them?
- v. How can you share your faith this week? With whom?
- vi. Pray for the gift of faith to be received