

Galatians – Part IV

What Good Is the Law – Galatians 3-4

Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- Some of the Old Testament laws seem pretty odd to us today. Can you think of an Old Testament law (or really any old law) that seems odd in today's world?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Galatians 3:19-26.
 - Verse 21 says the law was not granted with the ability to give life (salvation). Is that a good or a bad thing? How would things be different if we could be saved through the law?
 - In what ways was the law (rules, commands) our guardian until Christ? What was the purpose of the law?
 - What previous function of the law do we not need now that “faith has come” (verse 25)?
- Read Romans 3:20, 4:15, 7:7.
 - How does 3:20 say we gain the knowledge of sin and our sinfulness?
 - According to 4:15, what would be true if there were no law? Why?
 - In 7:7, why is Paul thankful for the law?
- Read Galatians 4:4-7.
 - What does Paul mean when he says, “when the time came to completion” (4:4)?
 - Why was it important that Jesus was “born under the law?”
 - What are the implications that we can cry “Abba, Father?”
 - Verse 7 says we have transitioned from a slave to a son in the household of God. What are the benefits of this new status?
- Read Hebrews 4:16 and Matthew 7:11.
 - How do these verses encourage us to pray more and more intimately? How is this connected to our status as adopted sons?
 - Why don't people pray more? How do these verses answer our often-silent objections?

Respond

- If we are not saved by following the law and we don't follow the law to continue to be accepted by God, then what was its purpose? What is its purpose now?
- How can a person truly live as an adopted son of God? How does the knowledge of our adoption change how we live?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Galatians 3:19b-20 says the law came by means of angels and a mediator. What does that have to do with Paul's explanation of the place and purpose of the law?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (2/24)	Galatians 3:19-26, 4:1-7
Tuesday (2/25)	Matthew 18:7-35
Wednesday (2/26)	Matthew 19:1-30
Thursday (2/27)	Matthew 20:1-28
Friday (2/28)	Matthew 21:12-32

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (2/24) — Galatians 3:19-26, 4:1-7

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (2/25) — Matthew 18:7-35

- It is clear in 18:7-9 that temptation is serious business to Jesus. How serious is it to you? Write down three ways you can begin to take it more seriously this week.
- 18:34-35 are some of the most frightening verses in the Bible as they warn believers of dire consequences in life if we refuse to forgive those who have hurt us. Answer two questions about this...
 - According to 18:32-33, why should we always forgive those who have hurt us?
 - Who do you need to forgive? What is standing in your way? When will you finally forgive them? (Answer these last two questions for each person who still causes anger or bitterness in your heart.)

Wednesday (2/26) — Matthew 19:1-30

- We learn a number of basic truths about marriage from 19:4-9. Fill in the blanks below:
 - Who created marriage in the beginning?
 - What two kinds of people should marriage always include?
 - When two people are married they became one what?
 - How long should marriage last?
 - How does the Lord feel about divorce?
 - What is the allowance for divorce that Jesus gives in these verses?
- We read the sad conclusion to the encounter between Jesus and the “Rich Young Man” in 19:22. What do you think the young man’s issue was? Do you have a little bit of the same issue in your life?
- What does 19:29-30 tell us about the kind of commitment and selflessness we should have in serving the Lord? How can this be truer of you this week?

Thursday (2/27) — Matthew 20:1-28

- The parable in 20:1-16 teaches us some surprising truths about God’s grace. At first glance these truths seem very unfair, but with further reflection they remind us of the incredible love of the Father and the reassure us of our place with him. Write down three things we learn about God’s grace from this parable.
- In 20:9, the master gave those who had worked way more than they deserved. How has the Father given you more than you deserve?
- According to 20:25-28 what are the differences between the behavior of someone who desires to be great in a worldly way and someone who desires to be great in a Kingdom way?

Friday (2/28) — Matthew 21:12-32

- In 21:15, we see that the religious leaders were indignant because Jesus was healing people and the children were worshipping him. Why do you think this bothered them so much? Are you willing to let Jesus take the spotlight in your life? Are you willing to say “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30)? What parts of your pride keep you from letting God have all of the glory?
- A fig tree generally grows figs before it grows leaves each year. So a fig tree with leaves and no figs is advertising that it has fruit, but it is barren. As believers, there should be fruits of righteousness, love, service, and sacrifice in our lives. If Jesus did a fruit inspection (21:19) on you, would he be pleased or surprised? What is one way you can bear more fruit for the Kingdom?
- In 21:28-31 we are reminded that that actions speak louder than words. Can you think of some promises you have made to the Lord but have not been faithful in keeping? Are there things you are saying you will do, but in reality you are not doing?