

CITYGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



Week 8 (Galatians 3:10-14)
Week of November 6th, 2016



#CityGroupsTally

REMINDERS for leaders:

Welcome back from your FUN NIGHT last week! Here's a few reminders...

-  **VIDEO:** Each week we will have a video for you to show at your group meeting.
- **We are in the home stretch!** Do you have anyone in your group being apprenticed as a future group leader? Please let your coach and Craig know if your group is ready to multiply in the Spring (or even considering it). We would love to help you work out a multiplication plan! You will need three basic ingredients for a healthy multiplication:
 1. *An Approved Group Leader* (apprenticed & willing lead the new group.)
 2. *A Host Home* and ...
 3. *A Launch Team* (of 6-8 committed people.)
- Let us know, we are here to help and pray with you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Thanksgiving Food Drive:** Donate canned goods and non-perishable items to benefit Godby High School families. Fill a bag and drop it off in the lobby Sunday mornings until Thanksgiving.
2. **Christmas on the Moon:** Sign up to serve at www.ChristmasOnTheMoon.com
3. **Galatians Online Devo's:** Don't forget the Galatians Devo's online at www.citychurchtallahassee.com/galatians

BIG IDEA(s):

The Cure for the Curse is Jesus! When the resurrected Christ is the object of our faith and blessing, we can live confidently for the glory of God. This week we'll be looking at the 'curse', how Jesus redeemed us from it and how the gospel motivates us to live holy lives.

PRAY: *Pray for your group's gathering and for the Spirit to equip us to follow Jesus into the world.*

READ: Galatians 3:10-14

HEAD (20 minutes)



WATCH THIS WEEK'S VIDEO

- 1. What does it mean to be 'cursed'? (vs. 10)** – (To be 'under the curse' means to be cut off from God and to face His righteous wrath for our sin. God promised that everyone who does not obey God's Law would be cursed. - See Deut. 27:16-19 & 26)
- 2. How good is good enough to be saved from the curse of Law? (Vs. 11)** (100% perfection. Our best efforts to live morally still leave us cursed.)
 - **What are some ways we could use the question "How good is good enough?" to help other people better understand the gospel?**
- 3. Explain the significance of Jesus becoming "a curse for us" in vs. 13-14?**
 - **How did Jesus "redeem us from the curse of the Law?"** (Jesus is the cure for the curse! Paul pointed out that when Jesus came to earth and died on the cross, Sin is such an assault on God that demands divine punishment. He took sin's curse off us and put it on Himself in His death.)
- 4. If Jesus is the cure for the curse then what does it mean to be 'blessed'? (vs. 14)** (The blessing of God is GOD Himself, to be in Christ... even more than being free from the curse.)
 - **Would you still say you are blessed if you had no money, car, house, poor health?** (Being blessed does not always equal being prosperous. It finds its fullest meaning in God Himself and is not tied to our current circumstances. See Jer. 17:7-8 & Matt. 5:1-12)

HEART: (15 minutes)

- 1) How would you describe to an unbelieving friend what it feels like to be free from the curse of the Law? Why might that be compelling?**
- 2) What are appropriate motives for obeying God's laws or practicing spiritual disciplines?** (S. disciplines like... Bible reading, prayer, fasting, giving etc.)
 - **Why do these sometimes feel like being back under the curse again?** (When we find our worth, our approval, our success in how well we obey or treat spiritual disciplines like a checklist or chore, then we feel under the curse again. We are freed from the curse to live holy lives and enjoy God. Spiritual disciplines become a joy not a burden.)
- 3) Which truth in Galatians 3:10-14 excites you the most? Why?**

HANDS (15 Minutes)

- 1) What effect does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross have on your daily life?**
 - **Do you think it's possible for it to have a greater effect? Why or why not?**
- 2) What is one specific area of life you would like to see effected more by the gospel this week? Why?** (your motives for obedience, your internet usage, how you spend your time, generosity towards others, giving, your thought life, marriage or dating life, evangelism etc.)

PRAY: Take a few moments to share prayer requests and pray for one another and your lost friends.

Commentary: Galatians 3:10-14 (To give you more insight into each verse & for hard questions)

3:10. Referring to Deuteronomy 27:26, Paul declared that obedience to every part of the law is required. Otherwise, the offender suffers the law's punishment. No matter how upright the lawbreaker has been otherwise, the offender must bear the curse of the law because of one violation.

3:11-12. The Bible refers to one who has been saved by faith in Jesus Christ as "justified." A greater understanding of the term can help us better appreciate the richness of God's salvation. Justification describes salvation from a legal perspective. Justification is granted by God on the basis of His grace, not through human efforts to please Him (Rom. 3:24). When God justifies us, He pardons all our sins, thus removing the separation our sins have caused between us and Himself.

God provides justification through faith, not by means of works or by keeping the law. None of us could be justified by works, because all of us are lacking in amount and quality. Neither can we be justified by keeping the law, because none of us can keep it perfectly. Justification is promised only through faith—not through works or the law. Emphasizing that "the law is not based on faith," Paul quoted Leviticus 18:5 in Galatians 3:12. Paul also cited Habakkuk 2:4 in support of his defense of justification by faith (Gal. 3:11). Such faith is not merely mental assent to certain historical facts, but genuine acceptance in the heart of God's gift of eternal life (Rom. 10:9).

3:13. As believers, we have been "redeemed" or "purchased" by Jesus Christ, and thus delivered from the curse that our sins deserve. The Greek word translated "redeemed" literally means "to set free by paying a price." Christ paid the price to free us from the penalty of sin (1 Cor. 6:20). In describing the redemption Christ made available by His death on the cross, Paul referred to Deuteronomy 21:23. Although Christ was without sin, both the fact and the manner of His death brought Him under the curse of the law. Death by crucifixion was the most degrading and painful form of capital punishment in the ancient world.

3:14. This verse summarizes two benefits of Christ's atoning death which Paul has set forth in Galatians 3: (1) the blessing given to Abraham extends not only to Jews, but also to Gentiles who place their faith in Christ, and (2) the Spirit is given to every believer.