

UNLOCKING FREEDOM: A STUDY OF GALATIANS #7
THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW
GALATIANS 3:15-25

GETTING STARTED

What is the most daring thing you've ever done? What made it so daring?

DIGGING IN

Read Galatians 3:15-25 and answer the following questions:

If people are inherently good, as many argue, why do we need policemen, jails, courts, etc.?

What laws, regulations, or ordinances do many people (even many Christians) routinely break? Why?

How does Paul describe the law in this passage? What does he suggest is its purpose?

What does this passage say about the universality of sin or the depravity of the human race? Is anyone able to keep the perfect law of God? Why or why not?

From what you have learned from this passage, explain God's purpose for giving the law in your own words.

LIVING IT OUT

Instead of the futility of trying to keep the impossible demands of the law, Paul urges us later in Galatians to "put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27). How does one do this? What would "putting on Christ" look like in your life today?

What are those things that you always seem to pursue for hope and completion outside of finding that in Christ? One psychologist suggests that there are four major categories which represent the basic ways people seek meaning and self-acceptance. I think they fit well in our discussion here this morning. As a Christ follower, there are certain things that “function as my savior” but they cannot give me hope or completion. Let’s look at this list together. And think about which one of these most applies to you.

Christ plus...

1. Comfort

What we seek: Privacy, lack of stress, freedom

Price we will pay: Reduced productivity

Greatest fear: Stress, demands

Others often feel: Hurt

Problem emotion: Boredom

2. Approval

What we seek: Affirmation, love, relationships

Price we will pay: Less independence

Greatest fear: Rejection

Others often feel: Smothered

Problem emotion: Cowardice

3. Control

What we seek: Self-discipline, certainty, standards

Price we will pay: Loneliness, spontaneity

Greatest fear: Uncertainty

Others often feel: Condemned

Problem emotion: Worry

4. Power

What we seek: Success, winning, influence

Price we will pay: Burdened

Greatest fear: Humiliation

Others often feel: Used

Problem emotion: Anger

So the question this raises in light of our study in Galatians, are you adding something to Christ in your relationship with God? Is God’s promise enough in your life right now, or are you looking to something else?