

The Long Ball – Discussion Questions

Galatians 3:1-4:7

Ice Breaker Questions

1. When you were dating, were you ever dropped for someone else? What did that do to your emotions?
2. When you think of babysitters you had growing up, who comes to mind? How did you feel about that person?

Read Galatians 3:1-4:7

These 36 verses are some of the most powerful words Paul wrote. He was in a battle for the gospel. He was out to prove that salvation is by grace alone, and not the works of the Law. We suggest that you read the passage in numerous translations (NLT, NIV, ESV) to get a fuller sense of the message.

Galatians 3:1-14

1. Paul does not call them fools but foolish, which is actually a Greek word that means “dull.” This is the same word used by Jesus in Luke 24:25. Why do you think Paul is using such strong language?
2. Why would anyone revert from a liberating life of faith to a legalistic spiritual life of works and performance?
3. Did you realize that God gave the Jews the Law hundreds of years after He made His promise to Abraham? What is the significance of Abraham gaining righteousness long before the Law appeared?
4. “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” What does this verse tell you about the emotional and spiritual state of people trying to earn salvation by “being good”?

Galatians 3:15-25

1. Pastor Jim talked about God “passing the long ball” to Jesus. Can you see that in verse 16?
2. In verses 19-25 Paul talks about the purpose of the Law. See if you can identify three and explain why each is important.
3. What is the impact on your life of verse 25? On our church?

Galatians 3:26-4:7

1. Paul tells us in verse 28 that we are “all one in Christ Jesus.” Why do we sometimes still have trouble with making distinctions and pointing out differences?
2. In verse 4:4 Paul lists a series of phrases that relate to Jesus. What is the significance of each of those phrases?
3. “Abba, Father” is a very intimate way of addressing God. What do you like about it? What makes you uncomfortable about it? What does it imply about God’s view of you as a Jesus follower?

Pastor Jim put up two slides at the end of the message that said the following:

- I can **do nothing** to gain salvation, to gain a new identity. It’s Jesus + Nothing.
- But once I am saved, I **do everything** I can to live out the reality of my new identity and adoption.

Explain what you see as the difference between these two statements.

Application and Prayer

1. How do I need to change my view of “good works” as a result of today’s discussion?
2. What do I need to change about what I tell people they must do to be saved?
3. How will the reality that God is “Abba, Father” change the ways I pray?
4. Who do I need to pray for as a result of today’s discussion?