



# BE FREE

A STUDY IN GALATIANS

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## DEVOTIONAL

### WEEK 4

Find a quiet place and a hot beverage, sit down and read Galatians 3

Now, take a few minutes and read it again, but, this time read it out loud like you are angry.

Paul seems a little angry here, “You foolish Galatians!” That seems a little harsh! What has Paul so ticked off? To me, this has the tone of a “Mad Dad Talk”. You know what I’m talking about? It’s hard to believe, but occasionally as a teenager I did stupid things. I would get a talk from my Dad that usually began with words like “How could you do something so dumb?!” or “What in the world were you thinking?!” To me, Galatians 3 feels like a Mad Dad talk.

Paul cares deeply for these people and they are living below God’s best. He loves them too much to let them stay there. He sees them trying to earn something that has already been freely given. They fail to see what is right in front of them. They have heard and put their trust in the thickness of what Jesus did for them, but now they are embracing a thin Gospel. Rather than follow the Spirit’s lead, they are trying to finish supernatural stuff by natural means.

Paul knows the truth that what is born of Spirit can’t be finished by flesh. It is believing in what Jesus did that makes us righteous. We move from the drudgery of law to the rhythm of love. It changes everything. It changes how we live and treat others. They are allowing law to create division instead of letting love create family.

Paul is Dad enough to say: You are all children of God through faith in Jesus. Don’t get sidetracked by how we are different, focus on what we have in common...

Jesus! No matter how old we get we all sometimes need a good Dad talk.

Paul points out that Abraham believed God and became righteous. Since faith and trust is what worked for Abraham, it is what will work for us too. We all become the children of Abraham and heirs of his promise. There is liberty, not law, there!

Paul described the law as a guardian leading us to Christ. How did the law do that?

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Galatians 3:28 says: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, nor is there male nor female.” We know we don’t lose our ethnicity or gender when we follow Christ, so what do you think this means? (Hint: look at verses 26, 27, and 29)

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