

Leaders: Any Sunday is a good Sunday to gather to pray! Consider inviting your group to pray during a service this summer. Go to bit.ly/hbcprayer to mark down when you plan to come.

LEARN

Read Galatians 3:6-14 together. What stands out to you from the passage and what stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Why does Paul use Abraham as "exhibit A" regarding how God justifies someone? (He was the father of the Jewish nation, yet was counted righteous by "believing God" and not through works. The Judaizers loved Abraham and claimed heritage from him yet did not share his faith, so were not his sons).

"Blessing" and "curse" are key words in this passage. What is the blessing of Abraham, and what is the curse of the Law?

(Blessing – counted righteous by faith in God's promise, resting in God's power to accomplish his promise // curse of law – under full weight of condemnation for breaking God's law by breaking any part of it).

What is at stake if someone seeks God's blessing by being obedient to the Law of God?

(Ultimately whether or not they are Christians is at stake. Practically, they fluctuate between pride and despair, either congratulating themselves being good enough or hating themselves for never measuring up).

PRACTICE

How can you discern if someone is traveling down the road to cursing or the road to blessing? What sorts of indicators (from their life and words) would show you which road they're traveling?

(Life – how they respond to suffering, to whom they turn when they sin, whether they rely on Spirit's power or self to obey God. Words – how they speak about relationship with God, how they confess, are they thankful?)

There are no commands in this passage, but there are plenty of implications that come from it. Work together to make 3-4 personal applications for the believer to do or believe from the verses.

(Examples: Rejoice in your redemption in Christ, continually receive the blessing that is yours in Christ, fight against our sinful desires to earn grace apart from Christ, search your heart to see how you rely on works)

Read verses 13-14 together again. How can dwelling on and fully receiving these verses help a Christian struggling with issues like depression, anxiety or bitterness?

(Example: Struggles such as these may spring from a root of self-reliance or self-hatred related to not "measuring up" due to wanting to earn one's salvation or rely on works of the law. We need to confess, meaning "say the same" or agree with God, that our redemption is eternally secure b/c of Jesus' work and cling to the truth daily)

(Leaders... Group prayer suggestion: spend time rejoicing in your redemption purchased by Christ and ask for the Spirit's help to have this good news continue to transform your mind, heart and life)

CHANGE

"The righteous shall live by faith". 2 questions

1. What evidence in your own life can you see of living by faith in the finished work of Christ?
2. In what ways do you tend to rely on your own works as your foundation for your relationship with God?

(Leaders: The idea with having these 2 questions is that one of them may be more relevant than the other for any given person)