

LEARN

Read Galatians 3:15-24 together. What stands out to you from the text or was helpful/challenging from the sermon on Sunday?

Why is it so significant that the law does not annul (change/cancel) God's covenant with Abraham? (If it did, then righteousness would indeed come by obeying the Law and the gospel would not be what Paul was claiming... justification as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ)

What does it mean that the Law was added because of (or "on account of") transgressions in v. 19? (The Law exposes and specifies sin. It even "increases" sin – Rom. 5:20 – it shows our heart to be dreadfully rebellious and by specifying sin, shows how unable we are to obey God)

Which of the 4 truths below are most instructive to you to understand the Law?

1. The Law never changed how someone is justified before God (v. 15-18)
2. The Law's purpose is to expose and specify sin (v. 19-20)
3. The Law served God by imprisoning sinners in sin (v. 21-24a)
4. The Law magnifies the beauty of justification by faith (v. 24b)

PRACTICE

How does the imagery of being a prisoner to sin before faith in Christ help you understand the gospel? (Prisoners can't get themselves out, must be freed. That freedom comes by faith in Christ's work, not by working to pay God back. Helps us see the work of Christ on our behalf as wonderful as it is)

When you are struggling, are you most often struggling with the notion of God justifying you, or of your justification before God being by faith alone?

(10-15 min group prayer idea for leaders: Seek the Lord together, asking for his help to see justification by faith for all its beauty and for his help in clinging to it daily for our identity, security, joy, etc.)

CHANGE

Is there a specific way your heart tends to reject either the idea of being fully justified by God apart from works, or to reject that justification comes only on the basis of faith alone in Jesus?

(The idea is to tease out the lies we tend to believe, or things we struggle to remember, or even sins we feel enslaved by, and connect the dots to how it may come back to an issue of believing we're fully justified or believing it is on the basis of faith alone)