

**life group study guide**  
**“This is Home – Heroes in Our Midst”**  
**May 26, 2013**



*In Life Groups, kids, youth and adults study God's Word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life.*

*Galatians 3:1-22*

**Introduction:**

We just can't avoid it—our lives are bombarded with the message of self-ability. *Just do it* and countless other slogans promise that we alone contain the ability to rise to the greatest heights of power, athleticism, and fortune. No one will tell us that we cannot be all that we can be—we just need to try harder! We alone are the masters of our destinies!

Without question, this sort of puzzled thinking leaks into our relationship with God. Don't worry—this isn't a new problem. Today we will look at Paul's letter to a church that fell into the *try harder* trap.

**Introduction questions:**

- Do you, or have you ever thought, am I *doing* enough to please God? Am I *doing* enough to be saved?
- What sorts of things lead us to ask these questions?

Paul is addressing the effects of a group of people he calls the *Judaizers*. They taught that you could receive Jesus by faith but you maintained your good standing with God by works. Paul doesn't pull any punches. Read Galatians 3.1-14

**Discussion questions:**

- According to verses 1-5 how has the Galatian church been “bewitched?”
- In what ways do we errantly attempt to earn God's acceptance and favor?
- Read verse 1 again. How can a vibrant picture of Jesus' crucifixion guard against that sort of thinking?
- Anyone in Judaism would have regarded Abraham in the best possible light. They even said: Abraham kept the law aleph to tau (a - z). Paul appeals to Abraham to prove his point—did Abraham earn favor with God by his good works? No, he simply believed. When we follow Abraham's example what are the results (vv. 6-9)?
- Verses 10-12 contrast faith with the attempt to earn righteousness by keeping the law. It's not a pretty picture. How does Christ redeem us from this fate (vv. 13-14)?
- If righteousness comes from faith—why should we do good works at all (see Romans 6)?

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Paul now gives an example to explain his point. He presents a straight-forward argument to drive home his point to the Galatian church, and to you and me. Read 3.15-22

- Explain why the Law can't add to the promises made to Abraham (vv.15-18).
- If this is the case, what is the purpose of the law (vv.19-23)? In what ways is the law helpful to Christians today?

**Application questions:**

- What “voices” in your life tell you that you need to try harder to earn favor from God?
- How can we confidently confront these?
- Consider Paul's words in verse 13 again. Read them carefully. Jesus already paid the full price of our rebellion (redeemed). We are free and have been declared righteous! How does this knowledge alone change the way you view God?

**Close in prayer:**

Spend a few moments in silence considering the ways we buy into Satan's lie and think we needed to earn God's favor. Thank God for freedom from this slavery and thank him for the incredible price paid to redeem us.