

Galatians - At the Right Time

Message by Pastor Clay, The Naz

Week 6 - October 26th, 2025

[Link to Sunday Service](#)

Summary

This week we address the fundamental question of why God gave the law if salvation isn't earned through following rules. The Apostle Paul explains that the law was given to reveal God's holy character and expose the severity of our sin and depravity. We cannot earn salvation through good works because God's standard is perfection. The law acts like a mirror, showing us our spiritual condition but unable to fix the problem it reveals. God's solution is Jesus, fully God and fully man. He lived the perfect life we couldn't live and died the death we deserved to die. Through Christ's sacrifice, we are not only justified (declared not guilty) but adopted as beloved children of God.

God is not a displeased judge, but rather a loving Father. As such, we should not see ourselves as slaves (bond servants) trying to earn God's favor, but rather as beloved sons and daughters who are already fully accepted. We should also not try to earn God's approval through performance, which leads only to weakness and misery. True Christianity isn't about becoming better through effort, but about Christ being everything through our complete surrender to His love and lordship.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to study Your Word and discuss what You want to teach us, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You have for us today. Help us to set aside our preconceived notions, our pride, and our distractions. Holy Spirit, we invite You to guide our conversation and reveal truth to us in ways that transform our hearts and lives. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one household chore or responsibility that you feel like you deserve way more credit for doing than you actually get?

Key Verses

- Galatians 1:3-4, 3:19; 3:10
- Romans 7:14-15, 19
- Romans 7:24-25
- Galatians 2:20; Galatians 4:4-7
- Psalm 103:10-12
- Romans 5:5; 8:14
- Galatians 4:9

Questions

1. How does understanding that the law was given to reveal our sin rather than provide salvation change your perspective on God's commands (Gal 3:19)?
2. Paul describes the frustration of wanting to do good but finding himself doing what he hates (Romans 7:15). Can you relate to this struggle? How so?
3. What's the difference between seeing God as a *judge* versus seeing Him as a *Father*? How does this impact your daily relationship with Him (Gal 4:6-7)?
4. We often measure our goodness by our own standards rather than God's. What are some ways we do this and why is it problematic?
5. What does it mean practically to live as a 'beloved son or daughter' rather than as a 'bond servant' trying to earn God's favor?
6. Paul warns against turning back to 'weak and miserable forces.' What are some modern examples of things that promise freedom but actually lead to slavery (Gal 4:8-9)?
7. How does knowing that 'God already knew everything He was getting with you when He made the deal to go to Calvary' impact your understanding of His love for you?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been trying to earn God's approval through your performance rather than resting in His grace. Practice relating to God as your *loving Father* in that area - bringing your struggles to Him openly rather than trying to fix yourself first. Each morning, remind yourself that your acceptance with God is based on Christ's performance, not your own.

Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that has challenged and encouraged us. We confess that too often we try to earn what You have already freely given us through Christ. Help us to live this week not as bond servants trying to pay off a debt, but as beloved children who are fully accepted and deeply loved. When we are tempted to perform for Your approval, remind us that our acceptance was won by Jesus' performance on our behalf. Give us the courage to surrender fully to Your love and lordship, knowing that You want what is best for us. May we experience the joy and freedom that comes from resting in Your grace rather than striving in our own strength. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.