

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE –

Galatians Series: *Free in Christ* “Redeemed from the Curse of the Law”—Galatians 3:10-18

FELLOWSHIP

Sometimes Scripture can seem to go down deep into layers that we might get lost in. Remember that Paul was a really smart guy! A religious lawyer, who had met the savior on his way to Damascus to have believers in Christ thrown in jail. Now God had redeemed him too and was using his skills to communicate the truths that this fellowship in Galatia needed to hear. We all have backgrounds, that once in the Lord, he takes and purposes for himself. As we get to know each other better every week, I'm sure you're already learning how our talents and experiences complement each other in the kingdom.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

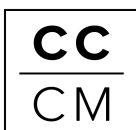
This passage in the third chapter is so vital for the Christian to understand his or her relationship with God, but it can be hard to follow as it digs into the language of the Old Testament. It deserves to be re-read in several translations. Here is the New Living Translation's attempt to bring it closer to our vernacular. Read this round-robin out loud together:

v10 *But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law. v11”* So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life. v12” This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, “It is through obeying the law that a person has life.” **v13** *But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. v14”* Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith. **v15** *Dear brothers and sisters, here’s an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. v16* God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn’t say “to his children,” as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says “to his child”—and that, of course, means Christ. **v17** *This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. v18* For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God’s promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.

- What do we learn about God in that he wants to bless and relate to us just like Abraham, outside of a strict religious system? How is this different than other world religions? Why did God even give the Law to Moses at Sinai? Why is it a curse to continue to follow the Old Testament Law in light of Christ's death and resurrection?
- Pastor Brian talked about two different curses: Sin and the Law. We are freed from the second, but how are we still affected by the first? What parts of it have we been freed from? How does sin still affect us today? When will we see complete redemption?
- The Christian life is in light of God's grace. What was it like before you experienced it? Who do you know that still needs to find it? How would grace change their life and purpose?

PRAY

Please finish your time together by breaking into some smaller groups for prayer. Maybe offer the name of a person(s) you are thinking about, someone you'd like to share Christ with.



Community Group Leader Guide

Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message on January 22, 2017

Watch or Listen Again: <http://cccm.com/teaching/galatians/video/redeemed-from-the-curse-of-the-law/>