

Sermon Series: Galatians: A Life Set Free Galatians 3 Speaker: Rod Heppell Date: February 18, 2024 GROUP GUIDE



Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: What is the most realistic counterfeit product you've ever seen?

Message Discussion (35 min)

- 1. Rod shared that there are 2 kinds of people those who tend to think they're better than others and have therefore earned God's approval, and those who believe they're so bad they're beyond his acceptance. If you had to pick one, which have you tended more towards in your life?
- 2. Read Galatians 3:3. Paul talks about the believers "starting by the Spirit" and trying to "finish by the flesh." Consider your own story. How did God first meet you and how does he continue to meet you? How would it look in your life to "finish by the Spirit"?
- 3. Read the line "the righteous will live by faith" each time emphasizing a different word in the sentence. What stands out to you about this phrase?
- 4. Paul goes to great lengths to show that God's relational covenant with his people has always been based on trust in His promise and not on obedience to his law. How have God's promises sustained his people throughout history? Which of God's promises means the most to you right now in life?
- 5. Rod used the analogy of cleaning a windshield and thinking we've done a pretty good job only to see in a new light that it is still dirty. How does God's word illuminate our lives so that we see the areas of our lives where we are not perfect? How does God's word also give us hope even though we are not perfect?

6. Rod shared an object lesson using a massive cement block. He tried to help prop up this block with tiny sticks so that it wouldn't fall over. In what ways do we try to add to Jesus' finished work with our tiny works to help us feel more solid in Christ?

7. Are there any practices this week you could try that could help you remember that you are saved by grace alone?

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Choose one area of your life where you need to be reminded that Jesus' work was sufficient for you and pray that God's grace would make its



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LEADER GUIDE

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Ice Breaker: What is the most realistic counterfeit product you've ever seen?

Pray: "Lord, help us as we look to you with the eye of faith. It is through faith that we are made right with you, so help us to grow in our trust of you as we gather to hear and discuss your word. Amen."

Message Discussion (35 min)

- 1. Rod shared that there are 2 kinds of people those who tend to think they're better than others and have therefore earned God's approval, and those who believe they're so bad they're beyond his acceptance. If you had to pick one, which have you tended more towards in your life?
- 2. Read Galatians 3:3. Paul talks about the believers "starting by the Spirit" and trying to "finish by the flesh." Consider your own story. How did God first meet you and how does he continue to meet you? How would it look in your life to "finish by the Spirit"? **Consider what it looks like to still do what is right, but for different motives, not to earn, but out of gratitude and love.**
- 3. Read the line "the righteous will live by faith" each time emphasizing a different word in the sentence. What stands out to you about this phrase? **Another way to translate it is "the one who by faith is made righteous shall live"**
- 4. Paul goes to great lengths to show that God's relational covenant with his people has always been based on trust in His promise and not on obedience to his law. How have God's promises sustained his people throughout history? Which of God's promises means the most to you right now in life?
- 5. Rod used the analogy of cleaning a windshield and thinking we've done a pretty good job only to see in a new light that it is still dirty. How does God's word illuminate our lives so that we see the areas of our lives where we are not perfect? How does God's word also give us hope even though we are not perfect? While it reveals our true disease, it also reveals our only cure.

- 6. Rod shared an object lesson using a massive cement block. He tried to help prop up this block with tiny sticks so that it wouldn't fall over. In what ways do we try to add to Jesus' finished work with our tiny works to help us feel more solid in Christ?
- 7. Are there any practices this week you could try that could help you remember that you are saved by grace alone? **Spending time in quiet reflection in the morning, making a list of all the ways God has had grace on your failings, look at the good things you're doing and thank God that he's enabled you to, repeat the phrase "the righteous will live by faith" a few times in the morning and evening... get creative!**

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Choose one area of your life where you need to be reminded that Jesus' work was sufficient for you and pray that God's grace would make its (If helpful, break into groups of Men/Women or 3-4 people. I would also recommend not simply listing many disconnected things from far removed aspects of your life, friends, or family, but focusing on those things in your own lives that need prayer that come out of this message or that come out of your 'highs and lows', and if necessary a few brief requests for other things going on)

Resources

Hyperlinked Scripture:

<u>Galatians 3, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (The Gospel Paul Preached)</u>, <u>Acts 15 (Certain men</u> <u>from Judea)</u>, <u>Habakkuk 2:4 (The righteous shall live by faith)</u>,

Resources:

Sermon Podcast