

Sermon: Never Graduate from the Gospel.
Series: *Galatians: Gospel Freedom.*

Scripture: Galatians 3:1-14.
Date: October 4, 2026

OBSERVATION — As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through who, what, where, when, how, and why questions together.

INTERPRETATION — Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) How does Paul's argument in Galatians 3:1–15 reveal that the gospel has always been God's "Plan A"? What does this teach us about God?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) In verses 1–5, Paul contrasts "works of the law" with "hearing through faith," and the Spirit with the flesh. In what way are the works of the law (even God's law) for justification and spiritual growth "fleshly"? How do they nullify the work of Christ on the cross?

b) We must never graduate past the gospel. Where have you seen the foolishness of trying to move beyond the Spirit and faith to the flesh and works of the law in your own life? In what area of your life are you most likely to feel the need to add to or complete the work of Christ?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace and salvation? How does it point us to Christ?

a) In verse one, Paul says that Christ was "publicly portrayed as crucified" for the Galatians. What helps you to keep the cross "before your eyes"? Songs? Pictures? Film? Prayer? Scriptures?

b) Read verse 13 again. Compare Paul's teaching here with 2 Corinthians 5:21. What is being taught here about Christ's substitutionary death? What are the implications of Jesus becoming our curse on the cross (consider also his cry in Matthew 27:46 and John 19:30)?

APPLICATION

a) Look at verse six again. Abraham was counted/credited as righteous. This is an imputed righteousness that is given to us even though we are still sinners. Martin Luther summarized this by saying that we are "at the same time righteous and sinner." Why is it so important in the Christian life to remember this dual truth about ourselves, especially when it comes to our spiritual growth?

b) Read verse 10 again. In what way does trying to keep the law put us under a "curse"? Think about ways that you curse others in your life by putting them under a "law" that you created. (Remember: Pastor Mark talked about both objective failure and the feelings of subjective failure.)

c) The blessing of Abraham's faith was that he was called a friend of God. How might your life feel and look different if you really believed that you are God's friend?

PRAYER

Praise God for a plan of salvation by grace that has never changed.
Confess the ways you have tried to move past the gospel and complete Christ's finished work.
Thank Jesus for becoming your curse so that you might be his blessing.
Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live by faith in his power, not your own "law-keeping power."