

For the Next Lesson: Galatians 2:20-3:3

The Christians in Galatia were struggling to live out a legalistic, rules and performance based lifestyle that was absent of God's grace. The apostle Paul challenges them that just as they can't earn their salvation, they can't earn acceptance by God after becoming Christians either.

- 1. Read verse 2:20.** How have we been “crucified with Christ”, and why is this important (see also Romans 6:6)? How does Christ live in us (see also John 14:25-26 and 1 Corinthians 2:12)? What do you think Paul means when he says “I live by faith”? What does this verse teach us about God’s attitude toward us? How should this motivate us to trust God? As we consider the idea of earning acceptance from God and God’s attitude toward us, what should we trust God for?
- 2. Read verse 2:21.** Remember, Paul is focusing on the idea that just as we are saved by Grace, we should also live by God’s grace. Therefore, what point is Paul making in this verse? The Galatians were literally trying to live by all the rules of the Jewish law. How do you try to live by the “law” and a set of rules instead of by God’s grace?
- 3. Read verses 3:1-3.** How would you describe Paul’s passion based on his words in verse 1? Why do you think he was being so passionate and direct? What is the answer to Paul’s question in verse 2 (see also Ephesians 2:8-9)? What is the answer to Paul’s second question in verse 3? Why is the answer to this question vital to your relationship with God and your daily living?
- 4. So what.** Paul’s first question in verse 3 asks, “Are you so foolish?” How would you answer that question? Are you living foolishly trying to earn God’s acceptance in your day-to-day life? How does this foolish living demonstrate itself in your life? How can you grow in living by grace, trusting God to constantly love, forgive and accept you? What would your life look like and feel like if you really lived by faith in God’s grace every day, all day?