



ASSURANCES –Living the Gospel Galatians 3:15-18

We are getting to the heart of Paul’s letter to the church in Galatia. We have seen Paul defend himself and his mission, respond to the dangerous teachings of the false teachers, and remind the Galatians of the life they were called to. At this point, Paul is going back to the foundation of the faith in order to prove once and for all that our salvation is through faith alone. There is nothing we can do to bring about our salvation. God took initiative at the beginning and continues to fulfill His promises completely independent of anything we might do. Our lives rest in His hands alone.

Getting Started

Let us begin our study by talking about the Law. Discuss what it is and how believers should interact with it today. Pick a few questions from the following to keep the conversation moving.

To what contemporary rules and regulations do we as Christians find ourselves particularly vulnerable?

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| Who makes these rules? | What are the intentions behind them? | How do they affect our relationship with Christ? |
| Why are they so appealing? | Why do we feel that we are doing the right thing when we are following these kinds of laws? | |
| What needs do they meet in our lives? | How can we be freed? | What is our alternative? |

We are continuing our discussion of Abraham and the promise made to him. We will begin by looking at faith.

How do we know that our life in Christ is secure through faith?

Faith is the conduit for God’s work in our lives.

Faith is trusting in the character of God.

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| What does it mean for faith to be a conduit for God’s work? | Describe the role of faith in salvation. |
| What does it mean to trust in the character of God? | How do we live by faith? What does this look like? |

Before beginning this section, reread verses 6-14 of chapter 3. This will provide the background for our discussion.

We are challenged to consider the promises given to Abraham . . .

- 1. Consider the nature of the covenant. v. 15**
 God’s promise is unchangeable.
 Describe how the covenant came into existence. Who bears responsibility for its fulfillment? Why?
 How does Paul’s example help us understand the covenant? What is the main point Paul wants us to get?
- 2. Consider the nature of its fulfillment. vv. 16-7**
 God’s promise is unearned.
 How will the covenant be fulfilled? What does its fulfillment look like?
 How does the Law interact with the covenant? What must we do to receive the fulfillment?
- 3. Consider the nature of God’s character. v. 18**
 God’s promise is unstoppable.
 Why is God’s character relevant to the covenant? How is our character relevant to the covenant?
 How does the covenant fit in with God’s plan for our lives? What does the covenant tell us about God?
 How does living in light of the promise free us from legalism? What parts of your life is legalism controlling?

Application

We need to slow down and do some thinking before we end our study. Provide a few minutes for the group to think about the following questions before discussing answers. This is an easy way to help everyone move from the head to the heart.

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| Why is assurance so important in the life of believers? | How have you interacted with this issue in the past? |
| How are you going to respond to this issue? | How will this affect your life and how you live? |
| What specific application have you gleaned from the study and what exactly are you going to do about it this week? | |

Prayer

Thank God for bringing everyone in your group to Trinity Chapel and to your group. Ask the Father to help each person realize the unique role He has for him or her in your group and at TCBC. Praise Him for loving us, taking the initiative, pursuing us, and giving us an abundant life worth living. Praise God for who He is, what He has done, & what He will do.