

Family Fellowship, Week Beginning 30 March

Back into Galatians once again this week, and the sermon is on Facebook all week if you didn't catch it. Actually there is a whole 'service' – bible reading, kids talk, song and missionary update. Robin had five points – don't be ***bewitched*** by the law, but ***begin*** at the cross, ***born*** anew by the Spirit, on the ***basis*** of faith to be ***brought*** to perfection by the spirit. Those five 'b's will guide our week.

It's good to be reminded of our reliance upon God in these times, and we need to rely on him not just to get through the next weeks and months, but also to benefit from his word and time together. I'm praying that each of you would know his help in a special way.

Scott

MONDAY 30TH MARCH

Read: Galatians 3:1

Chat: Has anyone ever called you a fool? It's a strong word! And that's how chapter three of Paul's letter to the Galatian Christian begins – he calls them fools! What must Paul have been feeling like to call the Galatians fools? What do you think, what sort of emotions do you think he had? (*Take answers*)

Yeah, he was frustrated, angry, annoyed and sad!

Why was he feeling like this? Well the Galatians had made a huge mistake. They realised that Jesus called them to live for him – and that's a good thing – **but** then they thought they had to live for Jesus in their own strength, by keeping up a high level of performance and by doing a load of stuff. When they managed to keep all the rules they thought they were amazing Christians, and when they messed up they thought they were terrible Christians. Do you ever feel like that? (*Take answers*) I think we all do. But Paul reminds us that is not how living for Jesus works. We aren't good or bad Christians because of how good or bad we are, but actually we are all flawed but loved because of Jesus. Jesus wants to help us grow, live and love for him – he doesn't expect us to live on our own strength, relying on ourselves. Describe how it feels to know that Jesus wants to help you every step of the way. (*Take answers*) Jesus calls us to live for him **and** he helps us to live for him.

Pray: Ask God to help us to remember that we are Christians because of Jesus and not because of our efforts. Thank him for his constant help. Pray for your teachers or teachers you know.

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH

Read: Galatians 3:1

Chat: This week we are reminding ourselves that Jesus calls us to live for him **and** he helps us to live for him. Paul reminds us of this in the second half of Galatians 3:1. He essentially says, “You people in Galatia were told very clearly about the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.” He wants them to remember about the death of Jesus on the cross for us. It’s important!

The cross is the most important moment in history. On Sunday Robin reminded us that it was a real moment in time when a real person – the real Jesus - was nailed to a real piece of wood on top of a real hill outside a real city. It really happened. Jesus went through that for you, out of love for you, to forgive you of your sin and to unite you to him. How would you describe the love of Jesus shown for you on the cross? (*Take answers*)

God wants us to remember the cross. If Jesus love us that much that he would die for us to make us his, will he not also help us live for him? (*Take answers*) If Jesus would go through that to save us, of course he will help us. Of course he will love us. Of course he will always be there for us. What does it mean to you to know Jesus is always there to help? (*Take answers*)

Pray: Thank God for the cross, and that because of it we have salvation and help forever. Ask God to save your loved ones who don’t yet know Jesus. Pray for the emergency services.

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL

Read: Galatians 3:2

Chat: This week we are reminding ourselves that Jesus calls us to live for him **and** he helps us to live for him. In verse 2 Paul reminds us of the work of the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that when we believe in Jesus, he fills us with his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside of us. Have you ever thought about how God lives inside you if you're a Christian? How does it feel to know that? (*Take answers*)

What are the reasons that God might give us the Holy Spirit? Can we come up with three reasons? (*Talk it through, take answers*)

God gives us the Holy Spirit to **help** us live for Jesus, to **help** us love Jesus, to **help** us love others for Jesus, to **help** remind us of Jesus' love, to **help** us know right from wrong, to **help** us to know the peace of God that being saved by Jesus brings and to **help** us become more like Jesus. That's amazing. The Holy Spirit is given to us to **help** us!

When Jesus calls us to live for him, he wants to help us. And so he gives us his Holy Spirit to do that. What do you need the Holy Spirit's help with today? (*Take answers*) Ask for help.

Pray: Ask for help. Pray for all those who work in our hospitals.

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL

Read: Galatians 3:2

Chat: This week we are reminding ourselves that Jesus calls us to live for him *and* he helps us to live for him. In verse 2, Paul reminds his friends and us of how we came to be saved, of how we believed in Jesus and how we received the Holy Spirit. He says it is by faith.

What do you think faith is? (*Take answers*) Faith is a personal trust in Jesus that grabs onto him knowing that he will save us. Sometimes we think we have faith because we are really smart, or because we know the right stuff, but this is what God tells us in Ephesians 2 (ICB)...

I mean that you have been saved by grace because you believe. You did not save yourselves. It was a gift from God. You cannot brag that you are saved by the work you have done. God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us new people so that we would do good works. God had planned in advance those good works for us. He had planned for us to live our lives doing them.

Our faith is a gift from God. We didn't do anything to have it, but God gives it to us. That's incredible. It's because of Jesus that we were called to live for him, and so he also promises us he will help us to live for him. We need to remember that Jesus is our ever-present help. What do you think would be different if you didn't always try and rely on your own strength, but instead relied on Jesus? (*Take answers*)

Pray: Thank Jesus for our faith. Pray for your family. Pray for those who work in our shops and for the farmers who grow our food.

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL

Read: Galatians 3:3-5

Chat: What are we learning about this week? (*Take answers*) This week we are reminding ourselves that Jesus calls us to live for him **and** he helps us to live for him.

The end of this passage is kind of confusing to read and hear, but what Paul reminds us of is this: you are being perfected by the Holy Spirit, not by your own work. You might have heard someone say, “practice makes perfect”, have you? Well not for Christians. It’s not by trying harder, but it’s by relying on someone bigger than you. It’s by relying on God that we will grow to be more like Jesus, it’s by looking to Jesus that we will become more like him, it’s by the Holy Spirit working in and through us that we will grow in our faith and be brought to glory forever with God.

How does it feel to know that your salvation and your Christian life can’t be messed up by you? (*Take answers*) Describe what it’s like to know that the God who created everything wants to help you with every part of your life. (*Take answers*)

Jesus calls us to live for him and he promises to help us live for him too.

Pray: Thank God for all that he does for you and all that he has given to you. Pray for our missionary friends.

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

Chat: What did you learn this week? What was the most confusing thing?

What was the most exciting thing?

Pray: Pray for your family. Take requests and pray for them.

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

Chat: Watch the service streamed online. What did you learn? What was the best bit?

Pray: Pray for our church family. Get in touch with someone from church and ask how you could pray for them.