

Psalm 103:10-12 NIV - 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

1 John 1:9 NIV - 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2.
Galatians 3:1-4 NLT - 1 Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. 2 Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. 3 How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? 4 Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it?

3,
2 Chronicles 20:6 ESV - 6 and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.

Revelation 19:6 ESV - 6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

2 Corinthians 12:20-21 NLT - 20 For I am afraid that when I come I won't like what I find, and you won't like my response. I am afraid that I will find quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior. 21 Yes, I am afraid that when I come again, God will humble me in your presence. And I will be grieved because many of you have not given up your old sins. You have not repented of your impurity, sexual immorality, and eagerness for lustful pleasure.

James 4:17 NLT - 17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

“What Chain Does the Gospel Need to Break?”

Galatians- week #4

INTRODUCTION

All Christians are sinners saved by grace. And the Good News is that Jesus not only redeemed you of your past sin, He is the victory over sin in our everyday lives. As God's children we are a work in progress. No one likes to admit it, but there are still times when we fall into sin. The question is, how do you deal with your sins on a daily basis? The Galatians had believed a lie and thought although they had been saved by grace, they needed to turn back to following the law to be acceptable to God. We need to be on our guard against the lies that lead us to believe we need anything other than Jesus to live a victorious life.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What long-term projects have you worked on that caused you to want to give up and try something different?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

The Good News always begins with Jesus

1. Read Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 1:8; Matthew 5:21-22; Psalm 103:10-12; 1 John 1:9

It's happened again! You've fallen short, you've failed, you've sinned. Now what? Be honest, what would typically be your first reaction when you find yourself in this situation?

When we sin, most of us react in ways that lead us down the wrong path. Maybe you've tried to hide from God or deny what happened or downplay the significance. How do Hebrews 4:13, 1 John 1:8 and Matthew 5:21-22 address those approaches to dealing with sin?

Commonly we attempt to deal with the sin in our lives by trying to “fix it” in our own power. We say, “I will be smarter next time, or work harder, or take control of my situation.” Satan uses pride, fear and

shame to keep us away from God and seeking anything else that will make our problems go away. Anything, except admitting we are wrong and we are powerless to change ourselves apart from God's grace. What is the truth about God's attitude toward us? (Psalm 103:10-12) When we accept this truth it should drive us to the arms of our loving Father for forgiveness, not away from Him. 1 John 1:9 gives us what simple and solution to deal with our sin? What do you think keeps us from doing this immediately when we sin, and how do we change that?

Speaking the Truth in Love **2. Read Galatians 3:1-4**

The Galatians had veered off course, and Paul was calling them out. Maybe they hadn't recognized their error until Paul pointed it out. What were they doing that caused Paul to call them foolish? What are some of the ways that we might similarly be acting foolishly?

We all need someone in our lives that cares enough about us to speak the truth in love, even when it isn't easy. But it takes humility and courage to admit when we are wrong. Discuss with your group some of the best and the worst ways to go about addressing sin in someone else's life.

God's Sovereignty **3. Read 2 Chronicles 20:6; Revelation 19:6; 2 Corinthians 12:20-21; James 4:17**

Sin can become a very powerful force in our lives. If we had the power to overcome it ourselves, we wouldn't need a savior. Christianity means total surrender to the sovereignty of God. Look at how God is described in 2 Chronicles 20:6 and Revelation 19:6. He alone has to power to break the chains of all sins for all time.

Powerful sins don't have to be glaringly obvious. Some of the most persistent sins can be those we have given up even acknowledging as sin. Which of the sins listed by Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:20-21 do you find easiest to ignore yet hardest to overcome? Maybe it is failing to do what's right that needs to change in your life (James 4:7). Don't ignore it and don't try to fix it yourself but choose to invite Jesus to take control.

WRAP-UP

It is true, we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. And this side of heaven we will not live a perfect life. But we don't want to fall into the trap that the Galatians did and try to fix the problem of sin in our own power. The power to overcome sin is in God alone. Not only when we first ask Jesus into our lives, but every single day. Sometimes it takes the voice of a friend speaking the truth in love to open our eyes. Don't be foolish, let God open your eyes to the sin in your life and let him take control to break its power.

Memory Verse

How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?
- Galatians 3:3 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- Let God reveal the areas where the chains of sin need to be broken in your life, and then surrender yourself to allow Him to do the work to break them.

Bible Verses

1.

Hebrews 4:13 NIV - 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

1 John 1:8 NIV - 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Matthew 5:21-22 NIV - 21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.