

## Galatians 3:1-6 — Gospel Power

### **Warm-Up Question:**

When it comes to trying to grow spiritually or overcome some sinful habit in your life, have you felt power or more discouragement? Why do you think that is?

**READ: Galatians 3:1-6**

### **I. Gospel Power: CONVERSION (We need to remember it)**

- ▶ What does it mean to try to be “perfected by the flesh” (v. 3)? What does that look like? Share any personal examples. Why is this “foolish”?
- ▶ Paul says Jesus was crucified “before your eyes.” What’s the difference between Christ crucified being just a truth we believed one time or agree with now, and a reality that is constantly “before our eyes”?
- ▶ Describe the ongoing tension of keeping the gospel “before our eyes” verses trying to be “perfected by the flesh” and “works of the law.”
- ▶ Ponder to yourself something that you have done that has brought you guilt or shame in the past few months. Then share how “Christ crucified” applies to it.

### **II. Gospel Power: SANCTIFICATION (We need to preach it to ourself)**

- ▶ How does striving to grow spiritually by only focusing on being good and keeping the law lead to increased inner pride, insecurity, & need for approval?
- ▶ Read the quote in the section to the right. What does it mean to “steal love and self-acceptance from other sources”? How might you do this?
- ▶ Share 1-2 ways can we practically “warm ourself at the fire of God’s love”? Share some times where you felt you have done this and the result.

*Salvation means much more than forgiveness. We do not simply have our slate wiped clean; we also become perfect in God's sight. And we stay perfect in God's sight. We do not begin by trusting in Christ's curse-becoming, blessing-giving death for us, and then continue "by human effort", as though we must now earn ongoing blessing. That is "foolish" (v 1). We go on as we began, having our hearts melted and molded by knowing and trusting Christ crucified. We never move on from the gospel - we never can, and never need to.*

— Tim Keller

*The faith that surmounts this evidence and is able to warm itself at the fire of God's love, instead of having to steal love and self-acceptance from other sources, is actually the root of holiness.*

— Richard Lovelace

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

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