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Church**

**September 29 & 30, 2018 Valley  
Week 3 – The Sweet Taste of Freedom**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (NIV)

### **GALATIANS 3:1-25: FOUR REALITIES ON THE PATH TO FREEDOM...**

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ by grace – but we also \_\_\_\_\_ by grace! (3:1-5)

*"After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"*

2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ children of Abraham's spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of faith (3:6-9)

*"Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham."*

*(see Romans 8:3-4)*

3. We live by the \_\_\_\_\_ and not under \_\_\_\_\_ (3:10-14)

*"All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.'"*

4. We understand that \_\_\_\_\_ means real \_\_\_\_\_ (3:15-25)

*"Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come should be revealed."*

### **THE BIG IDEA:**

Because of the gospel, we live by the Spirit with incredible joy... "ooh-ing" and "ahh-ing" over the God's gifts of grace to us!

## **Small Group Q's**

### **Personal Life**

1. In your own spiritual journey, how is a deeper understanding of the gospel of grace making a practical impact in your life?
2. Do you ever struggle with whether the grace message we've been discovering in Galatians is too good to be true? Explain...

### **Ponderings**

3. When you think about the "sin-management" approach to discipleship versus the "resting in grace" approach – in what way does the former view appeal to the humanistic pride of our "DIY" culture?
4. Read Romans 3:19-31 as a group, and discuss the following thoughts and questions.
  - If we are no longer "under the Law" – then what do you suppose Paul means by the fact that we do not nullify the law, but "Rather, we uphold the law" (verse 31)?
  - Verse 25 describes Jesus as the "sacrifice of atonement." This is often translated "propitiation" and means that Christ's death satisfied all of God's judicial wrath against our sin. Offer some specific examples of the practical impact this can have in our lives...
5. Admittedly, the idea of unconditional grace being the means of godly living seems upside-down. Why is God's grace-system so antithetical to our normal quest to see "change" happen in people?
6. Think back to what was said in the weekend message about us not "owing" God anything. What was your initial reaction when you heard that statement? Why is a "debt-repayment" mentality ultimately incompatible with the message of the Gospel?
7. Did the "Golden Gate Bridge" illustration serve to clarify anything for you in terms of how grace helps us to live in freedom and greater holiness? Explain...
8. As you think about the "religious" friends and family in your life, are there any who desperately need a better grasp of the Gospel? If so, how might God use you as "conduit" to bring this reality into their lives?

### **Promptings:**

9. When we are struggling with the same sin over a long period of time – it is easy to wonder whether God's grace might ever "run out" for us. Why is this insecurity based on a blatant lie? How does Satan use lies like this to keep us further in bondage to sin?
10. Pray for God's grace to deliver you from ANY and ALL legalism – that you might be able to live a holy life as an expression of thankful love rather than under the pressure to perform...