



FAITH –Living the Gospel Galatians 3:7-14

We had the opportunity to take communion this morning. Timm Sasser did a great job walking us through the meaning and significance of this sacrament. He gave us time to reflect on ourselves and our relationship with God, so that we could be prepared to take communion in a worthy manner. Take a few moments before beginning your group to provide everyone with an opportunity to get their hearts and minds in the right place before proceeding with the study.

Getting Started

We will be walking through the passage and talking about faith. Let's begin our conversation by reading and sharing thoughts and impressions regarding the following quote by Spanish writer and philosopher, Miguel de Unamuno.

"Those who believe that they believe in God, but without passion in their hearts, without anguish in mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, without an element of despair even in their consolation, believe only in the God idea, not God Himself."

Why does Unamuno address our reactions to faith?

What is he saying about our interaction with faith?

What is the difference between believing in God & the idea of God? Do you agree with Unamuno? Why or why not?

Setting the Stage: reviewing chapters 1:1 – 3:6

What are the major themes we have studied so far?

What was the environment in Galatia?

How has Paul described the nature of the gospel?

What has challenged you most so far?

Read the entire passage, beginning at verse six. Reread the relevant verses for each section as you begin discussing the text.

Faith has always been God's plan for drawing people to himself. vv. 7-9

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

Faith is trusting in the character of God.

Why is Abraham mentioned and what did he stand for?

How did Abraham fit into Paul's argument?

What is faith and what is the object of our faith?

How do these two interact? Which is more important?

Does our faith save us? What does?

How do we continue to live in faith on a daily basis?

Trusting in our own abilities is pointless. vv. 10-12

All our best efforts leave us condemned.

Our inabilities should push us toward faith.

Continuing to trust in our abilities pushes us away.

How is the Law and living under it a curse?

What is the purpose of the Law? Why was it given?

How does faith relate to living righteously?

How can the Law help us in our journey of faith?

What is our natural tendency in the face of our failures?

How can our failures propel us toward God? Give examples.

The object of our faith is the cross. vv. 13-14

Because of the cross, we are no longer condemned.

Because of the cross, we are made righteous.

Because of the cross, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

How familiar are you with the reality of the cross?

How would you explain the cross to a child?

What has the cross accomplished in your life?

What signposts has the gospel left in your life?

Application

When we sin, we look to the cross. When we struggle, we look to the cross. When we suffer, we look to the cross.

How can you keep the cross fresh and real in your mind?

How can you keep from taking the cross for granted?

Reflection

We grow as we enlarge the object of our faith.

How are you enlarging the object of your faith?

How has your relationship with God grown in the past?

How do you grow in human relationships?

What does this say about how we relate to God?

Prayer

Group members should have an application-specific item as their first prayer request.

Pray for Todd Howard and Justin Colvard while they are sharing the gospel in Sudan. Praise God for a specific way you have seen Him at work in the world lately. Ask Him to continue making his presence and love known at TCBC.