

February 13 & 14

# CURSE

# GALATIANS

Jesse Tink,

Waterloo Campus Pastor

## INTRODUCTION

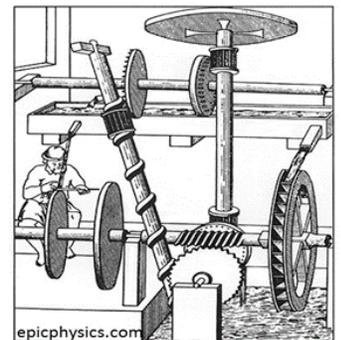
Continuing our series on Galatians, Pastor Jesse urges us to stop relying on ourselves and get on the path of the Spirit. In Galatians 3, Paul helps us see God's promise to save people from sin was never dependent on people's ability to keep the Law. Sin makes that impossible for us; otherwise, salvation would come by keeping the Law, not by believing in Jesus. The Law is good because it helps us see we could never earn God's favor by our human efforts, but beyond that, the Law is powerless to save us. Instead, God freely gives us the promised Holy Spirit, which not only ensures our salvation but gives us both the desire and ability to do what God has in mind for our lives.

## DISCUSSION

1. The Gospel message is so simple, yet we have found ways to complicate or add to it. It covers all people, yet we seek ways to exclude those who are not like us. It is all God's doing, yet our natural tendency is to try to earn it. Discuss how the Galatians were struggling in each of these areas. Like the Galatians, in what ways do you struggle? Choose one of the above statement that is the hardest for you to understand and believe, and share it with your group. Pray for clarity of God's purpose and path for your lives.
2. In **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**, Paul says the message of the cross is foolishness to the Gentiles and a stumbling block to the Jews. Take these verses and put them in your own words [paraphrase]. Discuss what you think Paul means for each of these two groups and how this might relate to your faith walk.
3. Read **Galatians 3:10-14**. Where do you feel that you're cursed – where, no matter how hard you try, you just can't seem to get any traction toward real, lasting change? How do these verses explain the difference between living by the Law or living by faith?

## THINK ABOUT IT

The picture on the right is of a perpetual motion machine. It is a hypothetical device that can do work indefinitely without an energy source. Water from the tank turns a water wheel, which drives a series of gears and shafts that rotate the screw to pump water to refill the tank. The motion of the water wheel also drives two grinding wheels. This kind of machine is impossible since it would violate the laws of thermodynamics. Sometimes we think we can operate as Christians on our own power without abiding in Christ. We think we can bear fruit without the input of the Spirit in our lives. The fact is, we need to spend regular time in God's Word and prayer in order to grow and discover His work for our lives. These spiritual rhythms are not what save us but what God uses to sustain us. Are you approaching your life with God as something you're supposed to do for or something you need from Him?



## DO SOMETHING

1. Put your belief into action by depending on God in some way this week. Commit to a Bible reading plan or find a good devotional resource [such as RightNow Media; click the button under Quick Links at [prairielakeschurch.org](http://prairielakeschurch.org)]. Start a new spiritual rhythm and ask God to empower you through His Spirit to desire and carry through on that time with Him.
2. Read through Galatians 4 before next week's message. Ask God to prepare your heart to hear the message and understand His Word.
3. Live for Christ! Find a way you can become involved as a volunteer on your PLC campus even if it's just one hour per week.

For more information, contact [group LIFE@prairielakeschurch.org](mailto:group LIFE@prairielakeschurch.org).