**The Basis of the Believer’s Confidence: Faith**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 44: Galatians

McDonald Bible Methodist

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**SERMON NOTES**

*The problem: Jewish Christians demanded that Gentile believers conform to the Law*

1. Understanding the True Gospel (1-2)

*We are made right with God by being united with Christ.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God to Paul as including Gentiles (1:11-2:10, esp. 1:11-12)
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a paradigm shift, as seen with Peter (2:11-14)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what was always true: justification is by faith! (2:15-21)

*Application: Union with Christ yields the Christ-life (2:20). Are we increasingly reflecting Jesus in our interactions, occupations, and motivations?*

1. Law-Adherence Vs. Faith (3-4)
2. Salvation through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus, who fulfilled the Law (3:1-14)

Our faith is in God’s…

* Provision – the cross
* Promise – eternal life
* Purpose – yielding obedience

1. God’s promise to Abraham \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Law (3:15-29)
2. Illustration of physical descent vs. descent of the promise (4)

*Application: Don’t try to earn your good standing with God!*

1. Paul’s Application for the Churches (5-6)
   1. Believers are set free to live the Law of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:1-15)
   2. The spiritually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life is the Spirit-led life (5:16-26)
   3. The life of love cares for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of fellow-believers (6:1-10)
   4. Jesus-followers can only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the cross (6:12-16)

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. Every theological system has potential dangers if misunderstood. As Wesleyans, we believe that Christian life is a life of holiness. If we begin thinking our holiness contributes to our right standing with God, how are we misunderstanding Galatians? (see 3:10)
2. What danger is there in trusting in our holiness in addition to Jesus’ provision for our sins? (see 5:2)
3. Is life in the Spirit – the life that is “free in Christ” – compatible with sinful living? (See 5:18-21, 24)
4. Read 5:22-23 and discuss: What is the process by which the Spirit produces this fruit in our lives? How do we intentionally cooperate with this process?
5. Bible study: Read 6:1-10, pausing after verses 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9, and 10 to discuss how the law of love calls us to care for fellow-believers.

**Prayer from Galatians:** “Jesus, thank you that I don’t have to try to earn my salvation. Please guard me from ever relying on my own goodness. Thank you for providing me the freedom of life in the Spirit. Please teach me to live a Spirit-led life, so I can bear the fruits of the Spirit and ultimately so I can please you.”

**Answers:** Revealed, **Represented,** Reinforced, **faith,** preceded, **love,** fruitful, **needs,** boast