

Study Questions:

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

Key passage: Galatians 4:8-20

1. What questions did this week's message raise for you?
2. Read (aloud if you're willing) all of Galatians 4:8-20.
 - a) Talk about what you remember about the struggle between the legalists and Paul in Galatia. What was the key issue?
 - b) In v. 9 Paul is clearly using the Jewish legalists (see Exodus 14:11-12) in argument against them. Talk about a time when you have encountered or struggled with legalism. How does what Paul says here encourage you in that memory?
3. New Testament scholar and pastor Tom Wright says the following about this passage:

"...the heart of this passage, and perhaps its central thrust for Christians today, is the call to find true freedom in knowing and being known by the true God. The life of devotion and worship, gazing in adoration at the true God whose character and actions we can never study enough, sets us free from the rule of other gods – but the other gods will continually whisper to us that we might actually prefer being enslaved to them again. It's easier to rule your life by the old line-up of options: racial or tribal identity, geographical or territorial loyalty, the demands of money, sex and power. It's much harder to follow the God revealed in Jesus and the spirit, and to learn true freedom, true humanness, in the fellowship of other followers. But, as Paul will go on to say, there really is no alternative. God has acted; we have tasted the effects of that action. If we go back now, we are denying not only ourselves and our Christian experience, but God himself."

Tom Wright, *Paul for Everyone: Galatians*

What practical help do you see in this statement? Challenges? Encouragements?

4. Who can you encourage with the love of Christ this week? What can you do this week to be sure that you see God is always sending his love messages to you?
5. Spend some time in prayer thanking him for what he has done for us at Eastridge [remembering to include Easter!].



Grace Runs Thicker

Grace, part 1

Key passage: Galatians 4:8-20

April 11, 2010

Galatians 4:8-11

⁸Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

1. What really matters is not that you know God, but that _____.
2. In grace, when you worship the true God, _____.

Galatians 4:12-20

¹²I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong. ¹³As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. ¹⁴Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

¹⁷Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. ¹⁸It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. ¹⁹My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

