

NO TURNING BACK Galatians 3:1-14

“At its heart, legalism is a desire to appear holy. It is trying to be justified before men and not God.”

David Wilkerson

An Important definition

The three facets of legalism

1. Using rules, standards, or associations as a way to get to God
2. Getting to God by faith but achieving holiness or sanctification submitting to certain rules, disciplines, standards and associations
3. Elevating human preferences, philosophies, politics, and standards and infusing them with a standard of biblical absolutes.

Legalism is always someone else’s sin

4. How do these principles move behavior from legalism to grace?
5. Read Romans 5:10. When we do what’s described in this verse, what are we really saying as we look at our brother’s actions?
6. What are we saying about ourselves and our judgment when we make judgments where God has not?
7. Read Romans 14:13-18. What do we receive when we serve Christ the way the passage describes? This is by-faith living! Jot down at least four principles that come out of these verses that will cause you to be pleasing to God and approved by people.
Pray that God will give you a renewed passion for serving Christ in this way

What you're turning back from (Galatians 3:1-9)

Why they were so susceptible

Their problem was that they just **forgot their roots**

They were trying to achieve **what they already had**

1. The righteous person shall live by faith!
2. They wanted to be like Abraham when they already were!
3. They wanted to have God's blessing when they already had it!

What you're turning back to (Galatians 3:10-14)

From **blessing** to **curse**

From right living to wrong living - even though it looks so good!

The great turnaround - Redeemed so that Abraham's blessing becomes our blessing.

Getting to know you

Sunday's message spoke of living by faith versus living by faith in God's transforming grace. Can you think of a time a person gave you grace when you were expecting a tough response? Write it down along with a note about how you felt when the grace came.

Digging deeper - This week we're going to focus on the third facet of legalism that we learned about; trying to make our standards God's standards.

1. Read Romans 14: 1-5. There are a couple of issues here. What are the issues people are arguing over and what's the deeper issue?
2. What are the issues that people get passionate about today? Which of these issues tend to get you worked up?
3. Read Romans 14:5-9. What principles does Paul give to help the sincere believer decide?