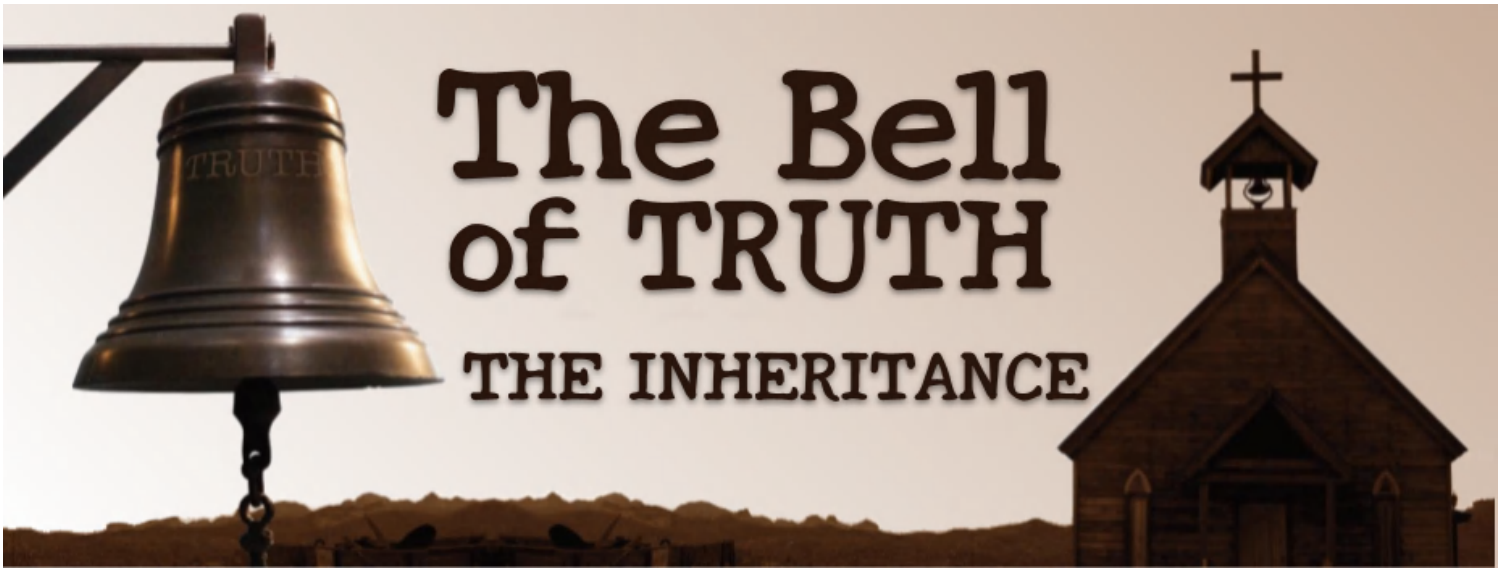


Week of January 15 - The Inheritance - Small Group Lesson Lesson 3

Connect

How can you be a blessing to others?

Verses - Galatians 3:1-16 (NKJV)

1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? this only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? 4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— 6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. 10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

Study

1. Why did Paul refer to the Galatians as “foolish?” in vv.1-3? In what way had the clear message of justification by the cross of Christ become distorted among the Galatians? (v.2,3) What examples does Paul provide to get their faulty thinking back on track? (v.5,6)

2. What is the relationship between God’s promises to Abraham and God’s promises to Christians? What benefit is there in being a “son of Abraham?” (v.9, v.14; Galatians 3:29) Which of these promises by God have already been completely fulfilled? Which promises still remain to be fulfilled?

3. Paul speaks of believers having received the Spirit, meaning the Holy Spirit. (vv.2-5, 14) We are taught that every Christian believer receives the Holy Spirit, but what does that look like? How do we know that Christians have received the Holy Spirit and walk in the Spirit? (Galatians 5:16-18, 22-25)

APPLY: Some people may stop paying attention to the law, claiming that they have liberty in Christ. How can we hold to the liberty and freedom which we have gained in Christ, without becoming lawless, living in sin?

DISCUSS: How can we help others to see that focusing primarily on keeping the law only leads to the curse and not to God’s blessing?

Share

While the magnitude of the promises of God are hard to believe, why do you personally choose to believe anyway? (Would you even call it a choice?)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray God will reveal to us how we can bless others through Christ within us.
- Pray for the weakest fruit of the Spirit of yours to grow in Christ.