

## MAIN POINT

*God's people do not earn His acceptance through their own good works, but through the perfect work of Jesus.*

## INTRODUCTION

In what ways might we try to earn favor with God?

Why do people want to earn God's favor? What's tempting about this approach? What's wrong with this approach?

For those of us with a competitive spirit, games in which we can score more points than our opponents are exciting. We often consider games to be worthless unless a winner is declared. We also tend to think this way about God. Many people believe they can score points with God through seemingly righteous acts, but today we will see the futility of that hope in Galatians 2. Only Jesus is able to satisfy the requirements of the law, and we receive Him only through faith. Therefore, God's pleasure in us is not based on our performance for Him, but through faith in Jesus.

## DISCUSSION

### > READ GALATIANS 2:15-21.

What is the common need of both groups named in these verses? Who is the only Person who can meet that need?

Why is it important to see ourselves on equal ground as others in need of salvation?

According to these verses, what is the message of the gospel?

What kind of behavior would be considered consistent with this understanding of the gospel?

What did Paul say about the role of faith and works (or the law)? How are they different?

What was the law's purpose? How did it set the stage for the Messiah? How, then, should we view the law?

What does it look like to "live to God"?

What was Paul's point in verse 21? How might our lives imply that Christ died for nothing?

## APPLICATION

How does the realization that Christ loved you and gave Himself for you change you? Is there an area in your life today that doesn't reflect that truth?