



Bible Study Questions

9th March 2025

Introduction: Reflect on the 2 main characters in the movie Chariots of Fire (Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams). What did Lawson say was the difference in their motivations? What does that say about how the world measures success? How many of these measurements of success do you see in your own Christian life or in the church?

Read: Galatians 2:15-21

Q: Discuss what your image of God is – is He a judgemental God, always looking to judge us for doing the wrong thing or a forgiving God? Is He distant or close to you? Could He be both?

The book of Galatians is about being justified by faith. What does it mean to be Justified = made right with God = just as if I'd never sinned. We don't have to prove something. Being made right with God is not about what we do but about trusting what Jesus has already done.

Q: Why then do we easily fall into the temptation to 'achieve our way' to heaven by doing things we think will attract God's approval? How does verses 16 & 19 describe this way of living?

OPTIONAL Q: Why was this so important to Paul and how does he show that he has got the message right – READ CH1:17-19, Ch2:1-2 & 6. Paul demonstrates that he heard this from God. Not from men. But directly from Jesus.

Consider the conversion stories of John and Charles Wesley i- attached below.

Q: How did their lives before and after conversion illustrate what Paul was saying?

Q: How did you become a Christian? Share some of your stories in the group.

Q: Paul says in Rom 10:9 – that a key aspect of believing is confessing with our mouths i.e. publicly confessing Jesus. Do you find this hard to do?

Q: If this gift of eternal life is free - what hinders people from following Jesus?

The highlight of chapter 2 of Galatians is in Verse 20. No longer I who live but Christ

Q: How does Jesus being in charge affect your life. Your choices? Is it complete surrender as Eric Liddell was able to say at the end of his life?

Q: Do you experience joy in following Jesus – if not, what is stealing your joy?

Charles and John Wesley

Charles Wesley was the first of the two to be justified by faith, and on Whitsunday, May 21, 1738, he experienced Pentecost. He wrote in his journal that the Spirit of God “chased away the darkness of my unbelief.” The prolific hymnist (eventually he wrote six to seven-thousand hymns) wrote a hymn to commemorate his day of salvation. While scholars debate which of three possibilities was this conversion hymn, one likely candidate is the hymn that asks, “And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour’s blood?” The last verse triumphantly proclaims:

*No condemnation now I dread,
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine:
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach th’ eternal throne,
And claim the crown,
through Christ, my own.*

Three days later, on May 24, 1738, John’s seeking for the grace of God ended in a meeting house on Aldersgate Street in London. He wrote in his journal that now-famous account of his conversion: “In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed.”

John immediately shared the good news with Charles. Charles wrote that “Towards ten, my brother was brought in triumph by a troop of our friends, and declared, ‘I believe.’ We sang the hymn with great joy, and parted with prayer.”

Until their conversions the Wesleys had what John described as “a fair summer religion.” They were both ordained. They both preached, taught, wrote, composed hymns, and even gave themselves to missionary work—all to no avail. They had not Christ, or rather, Christ did not have them. They lived by good works, but not by faith.