

Ridin' For The Brand: Up The Galatians Trail

“Ah Livin' Free Grazing on God's Amazing Grace”

1. The trail we follow is filled with hope.

Galatians 3.15-18 Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. **16** God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say “to his children,” as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says “to his child”—and that, of course, means Christ. **17** This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. **18** For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.

Romans 4.16-18 So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe... Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing. **18** Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping-

2. The hope we're pointed to is grounded in God's character

Galatians 3.19-20 Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. **20** Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham.

Hebrews 6.16-20 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. **19** This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. **20** Jesus has already gone in there for us.

3. Our hope, grounded in God's character is lived out in freedom by His grace

Galatians 3.21-22 Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. **22** But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

Romans 6.14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Romans 6.15 (Msg) So, since we're out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? Since we're free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind? **16** Hardly. You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits.