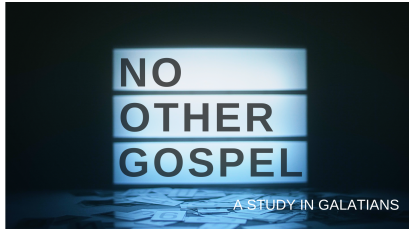


Getting Things Started in Galatians

April 22 & 23, 2023



1. Today we have the biggest opportunity to hear people with a variety of messages. Social media, news as it happens, mobile devices, etc. make it easy to hear from a variety of sources. What qualifications do you look for in believing what someone is saying?

Read Galatians 1:1-10

2. What does Paul give as his qualifications at the beginning of this letter? How does this compare to **Romans 1:1**, **1 Corinthians 1:1**, and **Colossians 1:1**?
3. There is a distinction between being a disciple and being an apostle (“one who is sent”). Being a disciple is a broader term that encompasses any follower of Jesus. What were some of the requirements for an apostle (**Acts 1:21-22**)?
4. How does Paul fit within this criteria in **1 Corinthians 15:8-10**? How does that add significance to what Paul states in **Galatians 1:1**? How does learning from someone who lived and experienced what they are talking about impact your learning from them?

5. What is the gospel? What was Paul shocked by in **verses 6-7**?

6. In the Exodus story we may be amazed at how quickly the Israelites turned from worshipping God to worshipping a golden calf. We may wonder how they could be so foolish and turn so quickly. Yet, there is the same risk for us today. How do believers turn from the gospel?

7. Earlier we mentioned Paul's credentials as an apostle, but what stands above his credentials in **verse 8**?

8. Why is it important for believers to have a firm understanding and grip on the gospel?

9. What did Paul encourage Timothy to do in **2 Timothy 4:1-5**? What was the warning of a future time coming?

10. **Read Galatians 1:10-11.** Do you consider yourself a people pleaser? What is the risk of being a people pleaser as it relates to the gospel? How can we have a heart for people but an unwavering commitment to the gospel?

Good News for Sinners

April 29 & 30, 2023



1. Have you ever had someone tell you that you only believe in God because you were raised that way? How would you respond to that?

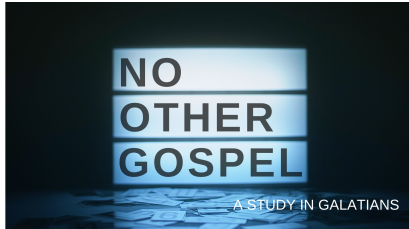
Read Galatians 1:11-2:10

2. Paul did not follow Jesus because of his upbringing. How did Paul receive the gospel?
3. What was Paul's life like before he knew Jesus in **Acts 8:1-3**, **Acts 9:1-2** and **Galatians 1:13-14**? How is that contrasted in **verse 23**?
4. How do you think you would have responded to Paul as a first century follower of Jesus? Would you have been hesitant to receive him or openly embrace him?

5. How does Paul's testimony reveal the power of the gospel? Do you ever find yourself thinking of certain people as unforgivable or unsavable? What does such an attitude reveal about our understanding of the gospel?
6. What is Paul referring to when he says God set him apart from his mother's womb? What was God's calling Paul's life based on?
7. What part does grace play in the Christian life? Does grace mean that we don't work? What is the difference between working for salvation and working out salvation?
8. What is the danger of people holding too high of a position in our eyes? How would you encourage someone who struggles with being a people pleaser?
9. How did Paul view those that were well known in **2:6**? How can we balance not being people pleasers along with being disrespectful or dishonoring to others?
10. How did the gospel impact the early church's heart for the people around them in **Galatians 2:10**? How does the gospel impact our treatment of others today?

The Standoff

May 6 & 7, 2023



1. Have you ever had a moment when you had to confront someone for how they were acting? How did you feel before and after?

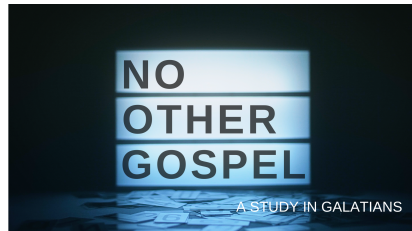
Read Galatians 2:11-21

2. In **verse 11** Paul says, “Peter stood condemned.” What exactly did Peter do wrong?
3. What can we learn from Paul's approach to confronting Peter and how can we apply it to our interactions with other believers?
4. We see that through Peter's hypocrisy he led other believers astray. Do you live in a way knowing that your actions may impact other Christians? How can we live in a way that prevents leading others into sin?

5. In **verses 15-17**, how does Paul's argument of justification by faith challenge the beliefs and practices of the Judaizers?
6. What does it look like to push back against our tendency to rely on our own good works to earn salvation or approval from God instead of trusting Christ's justifying work?
7. In **verse 20** what does it mean when Paul says we are “crucified with Christ”? What is the significance of this statement?
8. How does Paul's message about the importance of faith over works in **Galatians 2:16** connect to James' teaching about the importance of faith being accompanied by works in **James 2:14-26**?
9. In **verse 20**, how should we understand when Paul says, “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me”? What does it look like to live that out?

Upstaged by Faith

May 13 & 14, 2023



1. What is one of the most ridiculous things you have ever believed? How long did you believe it and what set you straight?

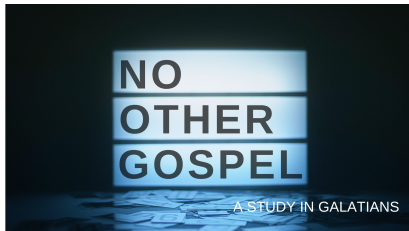
Read Galatians 3:1-22

2. In **Galatians 3:1**, Paul calls the Galatians foolish. In our culture we are so used to derogatory comments and calling names. Was Paul out of line for calling the Galatians foolish? Why or why not?
3. What was on the line for the Galatians that drove Paul's passion? In **verses 2-5**, what does Paul argue that they experienced as a result of their belief and not their works?
4. Why do you think there is a tendency to go back to the law as an indicator of our right standing before God?

5. Do people need to clean up their lives before coming to Jesus or to church? What are the indicators if we are making the law the priority? What are the indicators if grace is the priority?
6. What is it that makes a person a child of Abraham? What does being a child of Abraham include (**vs. 7-10**)?
7. What is the standard for living under the law according to **verse 10**? How does this answer the person that believes their standing before God is based on their good works outweighing their bad works?
8. Does a moral person need the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?
9. The Old Testament is often seen as about a bunch of rules or laws. However, 430 years before the law was given, what do we see God giving Abraham in **verse 18**?
10. What is the point of the law? What can the law not do? How should our inability to keep the law drive us to Jesus?

We are Family

May 20-21, 2023



1. When you honestly think about your primary identity, what seems to pop into your head first?

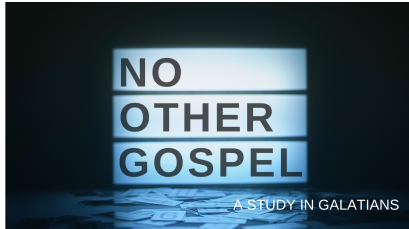
Read Galatians 3:23-4:31

2. Take some time to consider the caretakers you had in your life as a child. What kind of influence did they have in your formative years?
3. **Verse 27** says we were baptized with Christ and clothed with Christ. What implications does this have for how you live and how God sees you?
4. Where do you most vividly see division in the church between groups of people? Take time to pray for unity.
5. When have there been moments where you doubted whether you were indeed saved or in Christ? How did you handle that season and where did you find comfort?

5. What parts of your old life are you most tempted to run back to? How is following Christ better for you?
6. How comfortable are you with calling God Father/Dad? How have you struggled with seeing God as a reflection of your father versus the perfection?
7. In your group, what are some areas in which you all could grow in the ways you care for and hold each other accountable to the calling of Christ on your life?
8. Where have you settled for less than God's best for you in your past? How has God redeemed those moments?
9. What does it mean to you personally that you have been adopted by God as His son or daughter? What is the point of the law? What can the law not do? How should our inability to keep the law drive us to Jesus?

Live Free

May 27 & 28, 2023

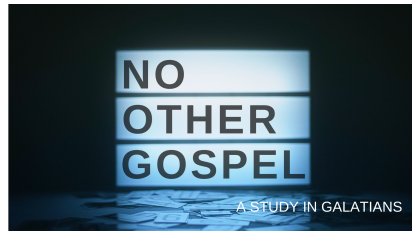


Read Galatians 5:1-12

1. What comes to mind when you think of freedom? What are the dangers of freedom being misunderstood?
2. What does it mean that “it is for freedom that Christ has set us free”? What are we free from? What are we free for?
3. If Christ has set us free, why is there the need to stand firm? What does it look like to stand firm on a daily basis?
4. Paul warns about being burdened again by a yoke of slavery in **verse 1**. How does someone who has been set free by Jesus re-enslave themselves?
5. The law cannot change our hearts. Legalism has the appearance of godliness, its impact is detrimental. How does Paul describe it in **verse 4**?
6. What is the opposite of living by the law in **verse 5**? We think of salvation as something we receive by faith. How does faith have a future sense as well in this verse?
7. Faith is not just something that saves. Faith fuels our lives. What should the impact of our faith be in **verse 6**? How have you witnessed this happening in the lives of other Christians? How do you see this happening in your life?
8. How many of you know of someone you once respected for their Christian walk who took a terrible fall? The Galatians were running well, but got tripped up. What does Paul say tripped them up?
9. What happened to the Galatians understanding of truth in **verses 7-10**? What are steps that we can take to ensure that we hold to biblical truth?
10. The shift from gospel truth can happen very subtly. What is our freedom based on? How can we guard against basing our identity or standing on our own abilities, inner strength, potential history, trajectory, etc.?

Spirit of Freedom

June 3 & 4, 2023



1. When it comes to the Christian life, people can easily fall into a ditch of either legalism or license. Legalism is when we create a bunch of extra-biblical rules to follow in order to make sure we don't sin. License is when we use God's free gift of grace as an excuse to sin. Which of these is more of a temptation for you? Why do you think that is?

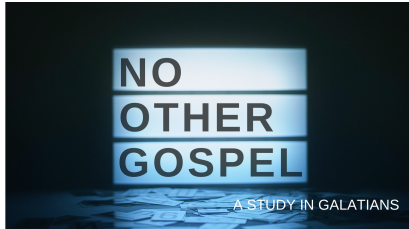
In **Galatians 5:13-26** Paul teaches us that true freedom doesn't look like legalism or license, but a life of love empowered by the Spirit.

2. In **Galatians 5:14** Paul says, "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" In your own words, what do you think that means?
3. In **verses 16-18** Paul describes the battle waged within each believer. What is an area of your life where you experience this battle? Where the flesh wants one thing and the Spirit wants another.
4. In the moments where you feel the battle raging, what helps you overcome the flesh and walk in step with the Spirit?

5. Paul says in **verse 17** that "... you are not to do whatever you want." Let's think about how to apply this verse to our current cultural moment. What would you say to a friend who says, "I'm having a really hard time seeing how it could be wrong from someone to embrace a desire or orientation or gender-identity that they were born with and have no control over!"?
6. We see a list of the acts of the flesh in **verses 19-21** and a stern warning. How do you understand **verse 21**? How would you counsel a dear brother or sister who has fallen into temptation *AGAIN* and is wrestling with whether or not this warning means they are excluded from God's kingdom?
7. Remember, true freedom is a life of love empowered by the Spirit. So, how does others-oriented love keep us from some of the "acts of the flesh" described in this passage?
8. Finally, we get the fruit of the Spirit! If you're studying this with a group, why don't you go around the circle and share how you see the fruit of the Spirit in the members of your group!
9. The fruit of the Spirit are produced when we "walk in step with the Spirit". What can you do this week to walk more in step with the Spirit?

Stay Humble

June 10 & 11, 2023



Read Galatians 6:1-18

1. As Christ-followers, what is our responsibility when we see a fellow Christ-follower caught in sin? What instructions does Paul give?
2. Paul warns about being tempted when restoring someone. What is a common temptation people might have when restoring someone? What temptation is Paul referring to?
3. **Verse 8** builds upon the acts of the flesh and fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5**. **Read Galatians 5:19-26**. How have you seen these realities played out in your life?
4. **Galatians 6** calls us to do good to all people. When is it easy for you to do good? When is it the hardest?
5. In **verses 12-13**, Paul refers to the people who want non-Jewish Christians to be circumcised. Based on these verses, what are their motives? Do you ever struggle with those same motives?
6. Based on **verses 14-15**, what motives lead Paul in his life? Share a time when you've had similar motives.
7. **Verse 15** shares about a new creation. Can you explain the new creation we have in Christ in terms a fourth grader would understand? How is this good news to believers?
8. What has been one takeaway from the Galatians series? How is God calling you to live differently based on this series?