

**Read Galatians 4:15-16**

*13 You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, 14 and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. 15 What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?*

- 1. How did the Galatians treat Paul when he first preached the gospel to him?**
- 2. How have things changed? Why do you think this has been the case?**

**Read Galatians 4:17**

*17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them.*

- 3. Circle the third person plural pronouns “they” and “them.” Underline the second person plural pronoun “you.”**
- 4. Based on what we have studied so far, who do you think the “they” are (\*hint\* Gal 2:4)**
- 5. Why is their zeal for the Galatians insincere? What’s their end goal?**
- 6. How do man-made standards for righteousness elevate those who make the rules rather than those who follow them?**

**Read Galatians 5:2**

*5:2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.*

- 10. How much advantage will Christ be if you decide to follow Christ and accept circumcision?**
- 11. How much of the law must one keep if they accept circumcision?**
- 12. If you try to justify yourself by the Law you are severed from \_\_\_\_\_ and have fallen away from \_\_\_\_\_**

**13. Why is trying to earn your way to heaven by being a good person incompatible with trusting in Jesus?**

**Read Galatians 5:7-9**

*5:7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is... 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!*

**14. According to verse 8, from whom does the persuasion of earning righteousness through law-keeping come?**

**15. Does Paul believe it's a good idea to allow people into the church who teach a different gospel? Why or why not? Support your ideas from the passage.**

**Read Galatians 5:11**

*11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.*

**16. In the infancy stages of Christianity, the apostles were not persecuted first by the Romans, but by the Jews. Paul believes that if he would have been preaching the necessity of circumcision, he could have avoided persecution. So why didn't he?**

**17. Why is the cross offensive to those who believe they are good people who deserve heaven?**

**Read Galatians 6:11-13**

*6:11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.*

**18. According to verse 11, what about Paul's penmanship demonstrated that this letter was truly his handwriting?**

**19. According to verse 12, what two reasons, did the Judaizers have for forcing the Galatians to be circumcised?**

1. To make a \_\_\_\_\_

2. In order that they may not be \_\_\_\_\_

**20. How good were the circumcised Judaizers at really keeping God's Law?**

**Read Galatians 6:14-17**

*14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

**21. In 6:13, what did the Judaizers boast in? What does Paul boast in (6:14)?**

**22. What is Paul's relationship to the world?**

**Read Galatians 5:6 & Gal 6:15-17**

*5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*

*6:15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.*

**23. What matters for Paul more than circumcision and uncircumcision in these passages?**

**24. Why is our hope in faith and being made new, rather than reforming the old, sinful self through law keeping?**

**25. Consider the phrase "the Israel of God." It could mean true spiritual Israel (the sons of Abraham by faith) or it could mean physical Israel. Is Paul asking for peace and mercy upon his kinsman or upon fellow believers? Why do you think so?**

**Group Application:**

- 1. What truth resonated most with you as you studied these sections of Galatians?**
  
- 2. Why can you not put your trust in both Jesus and the rules and rituals of religion?**
  
- 3. How does the message of a new creation, born again, and grace through faith differ than every other religion? Why is trusting in Jesus not simply moral reformation or behavioral improvement?**
  
- 4. In what ways, do you soften the truth claims of Christianity and the gospel in order to please others? In what ways, do you or are tempted to hide your Christianity in order to avoid mocking or shame?**
  
- 5. If someone of a different faith said, "You know the important thing is that we love people and do our best to please God." How might you respond in a way that's both loving and truthful?**
  
- 6. Paul says he "bears" the branding marks of Jesus. This refers to Paul's slavery of Christ's Lordship as well as suffering for the message of grace. How in your life have you "bore" the marks of being a follower of Jesus? How can you right now be willing to stand for the hope of new life by grace through faith in Christ?**
  
- 7. Share requests and pray for one another! Specifically pray for a commitment to the hope that is found in Christ alone.**