

Walking Out the Word:
The Epistle to the Galatians

Important Background to Galatians:

- Galatians is a letter that Paul wrote to a group of churches in Asia Minor.
- Legalists in the church called “Judaizers” taught that to be a Christian you must follow the Old Testament Law, and that Gentiles must be circumcised.
- Paul insisted that salvation was by grace through faith.
- The Judaizers tried to discredit Paul’s teaching by challenging his authority.
- In Galatians 1 & 2, Paul establishes how God called him as an apostle.
- In Galatians 3 & 4, Paul shows the inferiority of the Law to the gospel of Jesus.
- In Galatians 5 & 6, Paul exhorts Christians not to abuse their Christian liberty.

Things to talk about in Walking Out the Word:

- *Opening Discussion:* In the letters to the Corinthians, there were believers who practiced licentiousness (immoral living), and now in the book of Galatians the Judaizers were practicing legalism. In the church today, which do you see more of, licentiousness or legalism? Do you ever feel yourself pulled between these two demonic magnets of licentiousness or legalism? In what areas of your life?
- *Galatians 1 & 2:* In today’s culture, do you see people depart from the “grace of God” and embrace a different gospel (1:6)? Is your first tendency when you hear a fresh revelation from God to confer first with flesh and blood (1:16)? What does it mean to be “crucified with Christ”(2:20)? Where does your righteousness come from (2:21)?
- *Galatians 3 & 4:* What specific areas of your life do you tend to begin in the “spirit” but end in the “flesh” (3:3)? Who is your supply (3:5)? How can we as believers be “justified” and “redeemed” (3:11-14)? Who is our “mediator” (3:19-23)? What is the role of the law in our lives (3:24-25)? What does it mean to “redeem” and “adopt” (4:1-7)?
- *Galatians 5 & 6:* How do we “fall from grace”(5:1-6)? Use a specific situation in your own life to illustrate how a “little leaven leavens the whole lump”(5:9). How should we use our “liberty” as Christians (5:7-15)? Contrast the walk of the Spirit with the lust of the flesh (5:16-26). What should we do to help someone who is overtaken with a trespass? (6:1). What is the difference between bearing one another’s “burdens” (6:2) and bearing our own “load”(6:5)? Do you tend to “grow weary of doing good?”(6:6-10).
- *Closing Prayer:* Take time to share both your “burdens” as well as those things that are a “load” for you to carry. Strengthen each other through prayer and intercession.