

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Message Series:** Freeway (A Study of Galatians)  
**Message Title:** The Toll Road of Religion  
**Speaker:** Lance Burch  
**Date:** March 12, 2017

### UP NEXT

- **EASTER EGG HUNT** - We are asking that each Life Group drop of at least 3 dozen filled Easter eggs for the egg hunt. You can drop them off at the church beginning Sunday, April 2nd. Also if you want to volunteer at the Egg Hunt, please email [roger.graber@reality.church](mailto:roger.graber@reality.church)

### MAIN IDEA

Religion is a toll road you can never pay off. The good news of the gospel is a Freeway!

### INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of Galatians was to refute the idea that new Gentile believers must obey the Jewish law in order to be saved. Further, the purpose was to call Christians to faith and freedom in Christ.
- Galatians was originally written around A.D. 49 by Paul to the churches in southern Galatia that he had founded while on his first missionary journey.
- The problem was that because of Paul's missionary journeys several people were coming to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. That is awesome news! However, there were also many Jewish Christians in this area who still followed many or all of the Jewish customs such as circumcision. These Jewish Christians were telling these new Gentile (or foreign) Christians that in order to 'really' be saved they too had to adopt the Jewish traditions that God had already established. This of course was problematic.
- It was problematic because Paul was going around saying "Belief in Christ is all that is needed" and now they were hearing a different message.
- So Paul wrote Galatians in order to refute these false assumptions and incorrect theology.

### DISCUSSION

- If you were speaking to a foreigner how would you describe the difference between something being "Free" and the idea of "Freedom"
- One thing all humans have in common is the desire to be free. From the person who is oppressed in any way, to the inmate longing to be set free from prison bars, to those struggling to break a strangling habit... we long for Freedom!
  - When in your life have you felt oppressed, trapped, or in bondage to something? Do you remember what it felt like to long for *freedom*? If you did gain your freedom, what was that like?
- Have someone read [\(Galatians 1:6-9\)](#)
  - When Paul says that he is shocked that they were *"already following a different way"* what is he referring to?
  - What does he mean when he says *"This Good News you're following, isn't Good News at all"*?
- Truth: The Bible says there is only one way to be forgiven of sin: by believing in Jesus Christ. No other person, method, or ritual can offer eternal life. Attempting to be open-minded and tolerant, some people say that all religions are equal paths to God. While people have the right to believe whatever they want to

believe, that doesn't guarantee their ideas are right. God does not accept man-made religion as a substitute for faith in Jesus. He has clearly provided only one way (see John 14:6).

- The reason Paul is writing this letter is because many had been confusing the Galatian believers and perverting the Good News (gospel). There were Jewish Christians who believed that the Old Testament practices such as circumcision and certain dietary restrictions were required by ALL believers. These teachers in essence wanted to turn the Gentile believers into Jews. That is why they were called "Judaizers".
  - While our culture does not promote circumcision or diet restrictions as "extra biblical" requirements for Christianity... Is there anything that we DO promote as needed in order to be a Christian?
    - (i.e. church attendance, Bible reading, fasting, evangelism, serving or volunteering, tithing, etc.)
    - Are the above things good things for Christians to practice? Would God want Christians to practice the above things? If the above things are both good for us, and God would want us to practice them, then why is it wrong to say they are requirements for Christianity?
    - In other words, what's the harm in saying they are needed if they will benefit us?
- Why was it such a strong argument that Paul was against adding anything to belief in Jesus as necessary for salvation?
  - Answer: Because he himself was a model Jew. He himself was a Jew who worshipped in the Temple and attended the religious festivals. But he was concerned that nothing get in the way of the simple truth of his message - that salvation, for Jews and Gentiles alike, is through faith in Jesus Christ alone!
- What are some other "hurdles" Christians mistakingly place in front of people coming to Jesus Christ?
  - Does Jesus strike you as the type of person who loved to build obstacles between people and himself or the type of person to tear down obstacles between people and himself?
- Twisting the Truth is more difficult to spot than an outright lie. These Judaizers were twisting the truth about Jesus. They claimed to be his followers but denied his death on the cross was sufficient in and of itself for salvation. There will always be people who want to twist the trust of the gospel! Either they are ignorant to what the Bible actually teaches or they are uncomfortable with what the Bible actually teaches.
  - How can you tell if someone is twisting the trust of the Gospel?
    - By learning about, knowing, and seeking after God (also called theology)
  - C.S. Lewis shared of the importance of theology in our lives. *"If you do not listen to theology, that will not mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you will have a lot of wrong ones."*
- Have someone read [Galatians 1:10](#)
  - What does this verse mean for our "easily offended" culture?
- **Series Memory Verse:** *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free..." Galatians 5:1*

*"The gospel means 'Good News' if something doesn't sound like good news, it's not the gospel."*  
**Lance Burch**

**APPLY IT** .....

- Ask yourself: Have I added to the gospel in any way?
- Have I personally believed the clear gospel? (Group Leaders: take time to share the gospel if anyone isn't sure).