

Small group guide based on the sermon: Choose wisely among these **suggested questions**

Freedom Worth Fighting For - Galatians Series

Opening Question:

What does **"freedom in Christ"** mean to you personally? How have you experienced this freedom in your life?

Key Takeaways:

1. The gospel is Jesus plus nothing. Any attempt to add to Christ's work distorts the true gospel.
2. False teachers often present a subtle, twisted version of the truth rather than an entirely different message.
3. Paul's dramatic transformation from persecutor to apostle demonstrates the power of the true gospel.
4. Our righteousness comes from Christ alone, not our own efforts or performance.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Why was Paul so passionate and upset** about the false teaching creeping into the Galatian churches?

- **How might Paul's passionate defense** of the gospel in Galatians **challenge our own understanding** and **communication** of the **'good news' today**?

2. The sermon mentions **"Jesus plus" thinking**. What are some modern examples of how people might add to the gospel today?

- In **what ways** do **we still struggle** with the **temptation to add** to the **gospel** of Jesus Christ, creating a 'Jesus plus' mentality in our faith?
- What are some **modern-day 'Judaizers'** or false teachings that **threaten to distort** the **pure gospel message** in our churches or personal beliefs?
- **How can we balance** Paul's **strong stance against false teaching** with the **need for love** and unity within the church?

3. Mark used the analogy of **Chuck E. Cheese tokens**. How does this illustrate our attempts to contribute to our salvation?

- In **what ways** might **we be vulnerable to deception** in our spiritual lives, and how can we **better discern truth** from **subtle lies**? Gal 1:6-7
- Discuss the phrase **"It is finished"** from Jesus on the cross. How does this relate to the main message of Galatians?

4. How does **Paul's personal testimony** (his background as a zealous Pharisee) strengthen his argument against the Judaizers? **Gal 1:11-17**

- How does **Paul's willingness to suffer** for the gospel **challenge our own commitment** to sharing and defending the truth of Christ?

6. Paul says he considers his **former achievements as "garbage"** compared to knowing Christ. What might this look like in our lives today? **Gal 1:14-16; Phil 3:1-9**

7. **How does Paul's dramatic transformation** from persecutor to apostle **demonstrate the power of God's grace**, and **what implications** does this have for how we **view ourselves and others**? **1 Tim 1:12-17**

- In what ways does **Paul's declaration** of being **'unashamed of the gospel'** inspire or **convict** us in **our own witness** for Christ?

A Freedom Worth Fighting For

10-19-25

Mark McCartin

Galatians 1:

I. Counterfeit Gospel

Gal 1:6-7

II. False Messengers

Gal 1:8-9; 2 Cor 11:13-15

Gal 2:4 *This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.*

Gal 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery (to sin and self-righteousness).*

III. Genuine Gospels

Gal 1:4; 3:11

Gal 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."*

Gal 2:21 *"I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing"*

IV. Genuine Messenger

Gal 1:10-25; 2:9

Gal 1:10 *Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

Gal 1:15-16 *But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles,*

Phil 3:7 *But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ*

Rom 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed--a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

1 Tim 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen