



GROUP GUIDE – *The BOOK* - Week 1

A STUDY THROUGH Galatians

ARRIVAL / CONNECTING and SNACK: (15 minutes) Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: (2 minutes)

Notes for the group:

Paul and his team were sent from Antioch in Syria to Cypress and finally ended up in Antioch of Pisidia. You can read about what God did there in Acts 13 through 14. Paul preached the gospel and a gospel explosion happened particularly in Southern Galatia. After some time, Jewish Christians from Jerusalem called “Judiazers” traveled from Jerusalem to Galatia and tried to undermine the teaching and credibility of Paul. The Judiazers had a different message than Paul’s gospel. Their “gospel” was that to be right with God one had to believe in Jesus and go through the physical act of circumcision and obey the law of Moses. Paul will teach in this book that Jesus fulfilled the law of Moses and true circumcision is a spiritual circumcision of the heart that only the Holy Spirit can do.

Paul receives this news and is in great distress. Thus, he writes the book of Galatians in order to bring the Galatians Christians back to the true gospel of Christ.



SCRIPTURE and DISCUSSION: (50-60 minutes) Leaders, you may wish to add 10 minutes to your group discussion time this week. Open your Bibles to **Galatians 1**. With each Scripture passage, have a different person read slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, reflect quietly for a moment, then discuss the questions.

Galatians 1:1-5 *“Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— and all the brothers and sisters with me, grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

- How did Paul receive the message of the Gospel?
- In verse 4, how did Paul describe his gospel message? What was the purpose of Christ’s incarnation? What did Jesus do to rescue us? What did we need to be rescued from?
- How is Paul’s gospel different from the message of today’s world in regard to “enlightenment” or “salvation?”

Galatians 1:6-7 *“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”*

- How do churches desert the gospel today?
- Explain what is meant by God calling us “to live in the grace of Christ.” Please be specific.
- Have you ever encountered a false gospel that was different than the one Paul taught? Explain.

Read this quote from the late English pastor Charles Spurgeon:

Stand to God's Word and you stand safely. Alter one dot of the “l”, one cross of the “t”, and you are nowhere at all; you are in an enemy's country, and you cannot defend yourself. When we have got Scripture to back us up we defy the world; but when we have nothing but our own whims or the work of some great preacher, or the decree of a council, or the tradition the Fathers, we are lost. we are trying to weave a rope of sand, we are building a house of cards, that must totter to the ground. The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible is the religion of Christ's Church.

- What resonated with you from this quote?

Galatians 1:8-10 *“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse! 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.”*

- What are the consequences of altering the gospel of Christ?

Matthew 23:13 *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.”*

- What does it look like for ChangePoint to guard the gospel in our generation?

SURRENDER: (15 minutes)

- What is God specifically saying to you in light of today’s discussion?

PRAYER: (10 min) Pray for one another in light of what has been shared.