

# CONNECTGROUPGUIDE

# Galatians

LAW | LIFE | FREEDOM

Year of  
**HOPE**  
2025



# Galatians

LAW | LIFE | FREEDOM

<b>Galatians 1:1-24</b>	<b>No Other Gospel</b>
<b>Galatians 2:1-21</b>	<b>Called to Freedom</b>
<b>Galatians 3:1-29</b>	<b>Grace not Works</b>
<b>Galatians 4:1-31</b>	<b>Heirs not Slaves</b>
<b>Galatians 5:1-15</b>	<b>Free for Freedom</b>
<b>Galatians 5:16-26</b>	<b>Spirit-filled and Fruitful</b>
<b>Galatians 6:1-10</b>	<b>Never Give Up</b>
<b>Galatians 6:11-18</b>	<b>New Creation</b>

# INTRO TO GALATIANS

Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia is a passionate reminder that we are saved not by following rules or religious laws, but by trusting in Jesus Christ alone. Written around A.D. 48–55, the letter responds to a serious challenge in the early church: some were teaching that believers needed to be circumcised and follow the Jewish Law to be truly accepted by God. Paul strongly opposes this, insisting that salvation comes only through faith in Christ—not by works of the law. This means our acceptance before God doesn't depend on who we are or what we do, but on what Jesus has done for us.

While Paul teaches that we are free from the burden of the law, this freedom wasn't an excuse for self-indulgence. Instead, Christians are called to live by the freedom God has given us through Christ, walking in step with the Holy Spirit. Rather than focusing on rules, Paul urges believers to let the Spirit lead them—producing the well-known fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience and kindness, among others.

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## Some guidelines for Connect Group ...

- Come to the study prepared; preparation will greatly enrich your time together; it is recommended to take notes during the Sunday sermon, and to write down your thoughts as you prepare
- As part of your preparation, why not listen to the sermon again during the week (*most sermons are recorded and available on [Apple Podcasts](#), and also on the [website](#)*)
- As you prepare, pray that God will speak to you through his word
- Be willing to participate in your group. Your sharing will greatly encourage all the other members as you grow together
- Stick to the topic - this allows everyone to participate on level ground and to go deeper into the Bible
- Be sensitive to others and listen attentively; affirm others, especially those who may feel timid or don't often share
- Your leader won't be lecturing, but helping members to think through the questions. Many questions don't have a 'right' answer, especially those that apply the Bible to our lives
- Be careful not to dominate, as it could inhibit others from sharing
- Expect God to teach you through the passage and through other members, and always pray that it will be a profitable time together

## INTRO

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*What do you think makes a message trustworthy? Is it who says it, how it's said, what it says, or something else?*

### ***Read Galatians 1***

1. How does Paul introduce himself, and what is distinctive about his greeting?
2. Paul is astonished. What threat he is warning against?
3. What might different "gospels" look like today?

# Sermon Notes

4. Are you tempted to live to please people rather than God? What helped Paul, and what helps you maintain good priorities?

5. What point is Paul making by referring to his previous way of life?

6. What do we learn about where spiritual authority and gospel truth come from?

7. Paul's life was radically different before and after meeting Jesus. What has God changed in you, and what might you still like to change?

### ***Extension Question***

8. What role does apostolic authority play in shaping our understanding of truth? Can we ever say with Paul, "I did not receive it from any man"?



- Pray that we would hold firmly to the true gospel of God's grace.
- Ask God to raise up workers and send us into His mission field with love and boldness as we share the good news.
- Pray for the most hard/unlikely person you know to come to know Jesus - if he can change Paul, he can change anyone!

# Sermon Notes

## INTRO

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*Have you ever felt pressure to fit in by following certain rules or expectations? How did you respond?*

### **Read Galatians 2**

1. The critics of Paul were saying that he was preaching a different gospel to the other apostles. How does Paul answer this charge in Galatians. 2:1-10?
2. The critics had seized on Paul's public disagreement with Peter over the latter's public separation from Gentile believers, to bolster their opposition to Paul's ministry and preaching. Was this disagreement about doctrine (the gospel) or about application of the gospel? Was Paul correct to challenge Peter's actions?

# Sermon Notes

3. Can you put Paul's thesis or proposition statement in Gal. 2:15-16 in your own words?

4. A perennial objection to the gospel of justification by faith is that it encourages people to sin. How does Paul answer this in 2:17-21?

5. If you had to tell someone what Christianity is about, would you use only Gal. 2:15-16, or would you also explain 2:17-21? What would they miss about the Christian gospel if they don't know Paul's point in 2:17-21?



- Thank God for justifying us through faith in Christ, not by our works
- Pray for boldness to stand firm in the truth of the gospel, even when it's unpopular.
- Pray for many people to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and respond

# Sermon Notes

## INTRO

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*Can you think of a time when you had to completely trust someone else—without being in control? What happened?*

### ***Read Galatians 3***

1. How does Paul describe the Galatians and what rhetorical questions does he ask? (v1-4)
2. What do you think the difference is between living and relying on faith/grace versus the law?

# Sermon Notes

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| <p>3. Why does Paul use Abraham as an example of living by faith? (Tip - read Genesis 15:1-6)</p> <p>4. How does Paul contrast life under the law with life through faith in Christ? (v10-14)</p> <p>5. Why does it matter that God made His promise to Abraham before He gave the law? What does that show us about how people are made right with God? (v15-18)</p> | <p>6. How does knowing that we are made right with God through faith in Jesus—not by what we do—change the way we live, think about ourselves, and relate to others?</p> <p>7. What difference should it make in how we treat others in the church, knowing that all believers are “one in Christ Jesus?” (v28-29)</p> <p><b><i>Extension Question</i></b></p> <p>8. How does Paul’s argument in Galatians 3 help us understand the relationship between the Old Testament law and the gospel of grace in Christ?</p> |
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- Thank God that we are justified not by our works, but by trusting in Jesus Christ
- Pray that we would continue to base our salvation of faith and not on our own good deeds
- Pray for unity in the church

# Sermon Notes

## INTRO

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*What is one of your favorite childhood memories, and how does it shape your understanding of being part of a family?*

### ***Read Galatians 4:1-20***

1. How did God redeem those who were under the law? (v4-5)
2. What does Paul say we were enslaved to before Christ? What do you think he means by that? (v3)

# Sermon Notes

3. What difference does it make in your life knowing that you are a child of God and not a slave? What does this tell us about how God relates to us?
4. What is Paul concerned about for the Galatians? What does he accuse them of in verses 8–11?
5. What could “weak and worthless rules” mean for us today? How can going back to them hold us back from living freely in Jesus? (v8-11)

### ***Read Galatians 4:21-31***

6. In Galatians 4:21–31, Paul tells the story of Hagar and Sarah.
  - What do these two women stand for?
  - How does this help us understand the difference between being trapped by rules and living freely by trusting God’s promises?
7. How do you think Paul wants the Galatians to respond to people who want them to follow the law again?  
What can this teach us about handling pressure to earn God’s approval today?



- Thank God for adopting us as His sons and daughters through Christ.
- Pray for God’s strength to help us overcome earthly temptations and live fully in the freedom of being His children.

# Sermon Notes

## INTRO

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*When have you experienced a taste of freedom — like finishing school, paying off a debt, or getting out of isolation? How did it feel?*

### ***Read Galatians 5:1-15***

1. What kind of “yoke of slavery” is Paul warning against?
2. Why is Paul so concerned about circumcision? How does it relate to the circumcision of the heart he mentions in Romans 2:28-29 & Colossians 2:11?

# Sermon Notes

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| <p>3. How might someone fall into legalism today?</p> <p>4. "Faith expressing itself through love" (v6) transforms the way we relate to the religious, the irreligious and gospel people. How so?</p> <p>5. Have there been times when you felt like you were "running a good race"? What helped and what hindered you?</p> | <p>6. Paul says a little yeast works through the whole batch. What are some 'small things' that can start to pull someone away from the gospel? How do we guard against that?</p> <p>7. What is true Christian freedom? How is it different from the world's definition of freedom?</p> |
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- Ask God to show you any areas where you might be trying to earn his love. Pray for a deep understanding of grace and God's freedom.
- Pray for missions and ministries to hold firmly to the gospel of grace, and not fall into legalism.

# Sermon Notes



# Sermon Notes

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| <p>3. What "fruit of the Spirit" stands out to you? Why?<br/>How is fruit different from "works"?</p> <p>4. What does verse 24 mean?</p> <p>5. How can we keep in step with the Spirit?</p> | <p>6. Why does Paul talk about conceit and comparison after these lists of "the flesh" and "the Spirit"?</p> <p>7. How is this a call to freedom, not just good works?</p> |
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- Praise God for the way he is producing fruit in you and His church.
- Ask the Spirit to prompt you tangibly to follow His lead.

# Sermon Notes

## INTRO

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*Share about a time you carried/shared the burden of another Christian; or perhaps there was a time when another Christian carried/shared your burden.*

### ***Read Galatians 6:1-6***

1. What is our normal approach to sin in the Christian community?  
How does v.1 challenge that?
2. v.1 'Watch yourselves'. Why do you think Paul is warning about this?
3. v.2 What does it mean to bear one another's burdens?

# Sermon Notes

4. v.4 How can we get better at knowing ourselves and testing our own actions?

5. vv.2-5 How does the principle of carrying our own load balance with the call to bear one another's burdens?

**Read Galatians 6:7-10**

6. How can we work out when we are 'sowing to please the flesh' and 'sowing to please the Spirit'? How might we help one another in that?

7. v.10 How can the church better embody the principle of doing good to all, especially the family of believers?

8. In what ways can we avoid growing weary in doing good? How can we support one another in this?



- Pray for those you know who are going through difficult times in our church family
- Pray for Christians around the world who are facing oppression and persecution
- Ask God to help you to not grow weary in doing good

# Sermon Notes

## INTRO

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*How do you feel when you are pressured into doing something you don't really want to do?*

1. Circumcision for spiritual reasons is not a controversial issue for us today. What might be a controversial issue for us where one group of Christians may seek to put pressure on other Christians to adopt a certain practice?
2. v.12 How do people try and impress others today by means of 'the flesh'? The word flesh simply means 'self' or in this context maybe 'pride'.
3. How might Christians be tempted today to operate out of 'the flesh' in order to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ?

# Sermon Notes

4. What does it mean to 'boast in the cross of Christ'?

5. v.16 'what counts is the new creation'. What is your understanding of the 'new creation'? In what other areas, apart from circumcision, might it be important to assert the superiority of the new creation?

6. What do the words peace and mercy mean to you? How does the rest of the New Testament give us a fuller Christian understanding of these qualities?

7. What might the marks of Jesus be that Paul bears on his body?

8. What has been the most important learning for you from the book of Galatians as a whole?



- Pray for faithfulness to the one true Gospel
- Pray for grace and courage to engage with others well on controversial issues where the Gospel is at stake

# Sermon Notes



*Living to Love and  
Proclaim Jesus*

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Year of  
**HOPE**  
2025

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Rev'ds Chris Johnson, Lynda Johnson  
Brad Henley, Dave Smith and Ralph Bowles