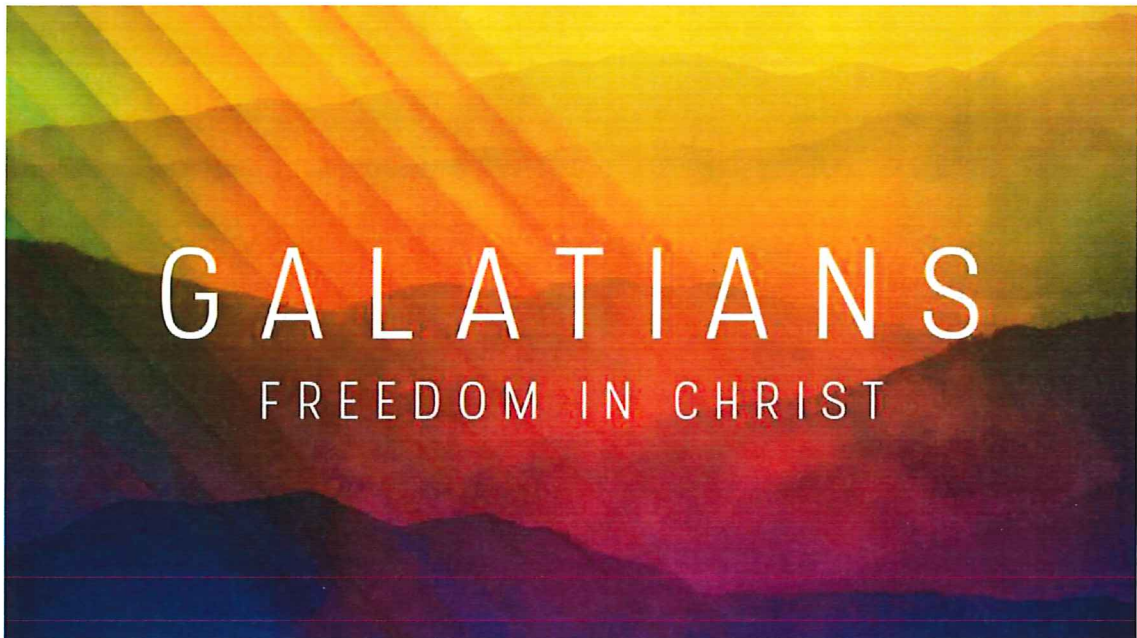




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FIRST BAPTIST



Galatians – Sola Fide
“Good News / Bad News”
Galatians 1:1-10

The Letter to the Galatians

Author: Paul, the apostle

Recipients: churches of Galatia – central Asia Minor (Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe) (1st Missionary Journey)

Central Message: Christian freedom, man’s deliverance through Christ from the bondage of sin and religious legalism

Purpose: Confront false teachers in the churches that were espousing a salvation by works

Referred to as the “Christian Magna Carta” or the “Christian Declaration of Independence”

Paul begin his letter with Good News / Bad News

The Good News (Galatians 1:1-5)

Paul’s Authority Explained

His Ministry

How does Paul introduce himself?

Did the people of these churches know Paul?

So why remind them that he was an apostle?

What was an apostle?

How does he describe his apostleship?

Why is he defending his calling?

Who else does he mention in verse 2? Why does he mention them?

His Message

As he begins his letter what does he wish for the churches? (v.3)

Are grace and peace important to our faith?

Why is grace important?

Why is peace important?

Can a car operate without oil and fuel?

Can faith operate without grace and peace?

Following his very brief greeting what message does Paul reiterate? (Good News)

What is the good news?

To understand God’s grace we need to understand three things:

Jesus gave Himself voluntarily

Who gave Himself

The price of sin was paid vicariously

For our sin
God's Purpose and will were carried out victoriously
So that
According to the will

His Motive (v.5)

What is Paul's point with the conclusion of his thoughts on the good news in verse 5?
Do you suppose anyone had questioned Paul's motives?
Amen?

The Bad News (Galatians 1:6-10)

Paul's Anxiety Expressed

Astonished That They Were Deserting the Gospel

Does Paul beat around the bush with his letter and his problem?
Why not? What does he say he was amazed about? (Amazed, astonished, dumbfounded)
They?
So Quickly?
Deserting? (transfer of allegiance – used to describe military desertion)
What does he say they deserting?
For what?
What made it different?
What does Paul call it in verse 7?

Indignant That They Were Perverting the Gospel

Why is it not the gospel?
Who is he talking about in verse 7?
What does he say they are doing?
Disturbing?
Distorting?
How strongly does Paul feel about this?
What does he say in verses 8,9?
Accursed/anathema?
Why does he say the same thing in verse 9?
Mark 9:42

What is at stake?

Paul's Adversaries Exposed

The False Gospel They Preached (v. 9)

The False Motives They Practiced (v.10)

Whose motives had previously been called into question?

Whose motives are being called into question by Paul now?

Galatians 4:17

What is his final point in verse 10?

Why is Paul seemingly so worked up so early in his letter?

Is there anything that we as believers should get worked up about?

Is there anything that we should be dogmatic about in our faith?

What is the most important one?

Wrong information can be deadly!

Wrong train stop.

Wrong information whether given with evil or good intent can be deadly.

Galatians – Sola Fide

“Set Free”

Galatians 1:11-24

Paul’s Story (vv. 11-24)

His Life Before He Met Christ (vv. 11-14)

What did he want them to know for sure? (v. 11) “Let me make it perfectly clear.”

Why does he say the gospel he preached is not according to man?

Why does he say he neither received it from men nor was he taught the gospel by men?

What does he begin to tell them in verse 13?

He persecuted the church (how? Why?)

He pursued his religion (how?)

Advancing (blaze a trail) in Judaism beyond contemporaries (Philippians 3:5-6)

Being more extremely zealous (Acts 8:3; 9:1,2)

Why does Paul bring these two things up and emphasize what his life was like before Christ?

Nothing in his life taught him or prepared him for the message of grace. It was a completely foreign concept to him.

How He Met Christ (vv. 15, 16)

How does he change the focus of his discussion in verse 15?

Who does he emphasize?

A supernatural experience

God did it (salvation starts with God)

God did it by grace (not works, Law, piety – Grace)

God did it through Christ (not through his own work but the work of Christ)

God did it for the sake of others (God chose to save Paul and to use Paul)

God did it for His glory (v.24) as a leading rabbi Paul was receiving all the glory of men he could want, but what he was doing was not glorifying to God. (1 Cor 6:19,20)

An Internal Experience (v. 16 reveal His Son in me) Let God in and He changes you from within

An External Experience (v. 16 that I might preach) Preach = tell the good news

Acts 9

Why does Paul tell this part of his story?

No human explanation could account for the 180 degree turnaround in Paul's life.

His Life Since He Met Christ (vv. 16-24)

Why does Paul make such a big deal about not receiving the gospel from men and not going to men to be taught? (Not just crazy Jewish sect)

He went to Arabia (a place of solitude) Arabian desert place of isolation (just him and God)

He went to Damascus (a place of purpose)

v. 17 First time he went there with what purpose?

Went back for what purpose?

He went to Jerusalem (a place of connection)

who did he meet?

What do you think they talked about?

He went to Tarsus (a place of sharing)

Where was Paul from?

Why go to Tarsus?

Paul had an incredible story

Every born-again believer has an incredible story

Three parts:

Your Life Before You Met Christ

How You Met Christ

Supernatural

Internal

External

You Life Since You Met Christ

Galatians – Sola Fide
“The Fight for Freedom”
Galatians 2:1-10

What is the tone of Paul’s letter to the Galatian churches?
Why does Paul have such an abrupt tone?
What is his primary concern?
Is this a new issue within these churches?

Read Galatians 2:1

Where did Paul go?
Who went with him?
Did the church know about this trip Paul took to Jerusalem?

Read Acts 15

Reason for the Council
Result of the Council
Letter back to the churches of Galatia

So back to Galatians – why does Paul mention this trip?

How could the Jerusalem Council Impact the churches years later?
How could the Jerusalem Council impact our lives today?
What was the primary issue settled by the Council?

Read Galatians 2:1-10

Again, why does Paul mention this trip and its results?

Put yourself in the position of the church – Paul has made powerful case for salvation by grace thru faith alone and he has reestablished his credibility in the minds of the church.
But a question then arises in their minds.

Is there a contradiction among the apostles themselves? Do we have men of equal authority preaching two different gospels?

One Hand – Judaizers
Other Hand – Paul

Question of Paul’s authority is settled - question is now – Is there disunity among the apostles?
Why is this a problem? Ephesians 2:20

Paul’s answer to the question:

The Council was Unified

The True Gospel was Presented

According to verse 2, what did Paul do when he arrived in Jerusalem?

How did he present the gospel?

Plainly – submitted = to lay before in clear language

Compared the gospel he taught to the gospel they were teaching

Privately – why did he present the gospel privately?

Was he unsure of what he was teaching?

Running in vain?

Personally –

What two men did he bring with him?

Barnabas – a Jew – to vouch for Paul (brought Paul into fellowship with the church)

Titus – a Greek – uncircumcised - to vouch for Paul's ministry (Exhibit A)

Titus, were u ever circumcised? No, none ever said anything to me about that. (verse 3)

Verse 4 – how did the trouble at the council start?

According to verse 5 how did Paul respond?

Would not yield, even for an hour

Why would he not compromise? V. 5 –that the truth of the gospel would remain with you

The False Gospel was Exposed (The pseudo-brethren exposed)

How does Paul describe the others involved in the Council in verses 6 and 9?

Did they agree with him?

What else did they do according to verse 9?

So what is Paul's point?

Apostles were all in agreement.

Therefore, if someone teaches you something else, they are not in a agreement with the church.

The Jerusalem Council should have settled the issue.

Did it for the Galatians?

Did it for the church?

In the place of circumcision, place the word "baptism" or "membership" or _____

The Council Was Also Diversified (vv. 8,9)

How does verse 7 describe the diversity of the gospel mission?

How does it also support not only Paul's message but his ministry?

What common goal did the apostles share?

What common ministry/method did they also share?

Final point –

Who worked effectively for Peter?

Who worked effectively for Paul?

Will He work effectively for anyone else?

Lessons for us?

Case study (11-21)

Galatians – Sola Fide

“Fork in the Road”

Galatians 3:1-14

Personal 1, 2

Doctrinal 3, 4

Practical 5,6

Paul had laid out the truth of the gospel, of his apostleship and of the Jerusalem Council. He now tells the Galatians, you have come to a fork in the road and have a decision to make either Grace or Works.

Before you make your decision, here is my doctrinal argument.

Argument from Experience (vv. 1-5)

What does Paul call the Galatians in verse 1?

What does he say has happened to them?

What does he mean by bewitched?

What are some of the consequences of being bewitched?

1. ignores the cross (1)
2. contradicts their own experience (2, 3)
3. Renders their suffering meaningless (4)
4. Denies the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives (5)

What is his point in bringing all of these things up? (had they forgotten)

Argument from Scripture (vv.6 -9)

Masterstroke – 2 thoughts

JUSTIFICATION

Abraham's Faith

To whom does he refer the Galatians?

What about Abraham does he point to?

What is verse 2?

Where is the quote from? Genesis 15:6

What is the significance?

Events

Chronology (14 yrs before circumcision; 500 yrs before Law given)

What is the point?

How was Abraham justified, by works or by faith?

Abraham's family (vv. 7-9)

Who did the Judiazers consider to be the children of Abraham?

Who does Paul say are really the children of God? (John 8:37-39)

Where does the quote in verse 8 come from? (Genesis 12:3)

How did God preach the gospel in advance to Abraham?

What is Paul's point?

God has only one plan for salvation

REDEMPTION (vv. 10-14)

The foundation for justification is redemption

What are the two options the Galatians are considering? (the Law or Grace)

Lets suppose you go the Law route?

What are the requirements of the Law?

1. Demands performance
2. Demands complete performance
3. Demands continual complete performance (Eccl. 3:15)

What are the results of the Law?

Verse 10?

Under what curse? (Deut. 27:26) divine sentence of death, alienation and banishment from God

God is serious about sin. John 3:36

If you choose this fork in the road, you will remain under the curse

Lets suppose you go the Grace route

v. 11 (Habakkuk 2:4) The just shall live by faith

v. 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse

having become a curse? When? 1 Peter 2:24

Galatians you have a choice either v. 10 (Law) or v. 13 (grace)

Galatians – Sola Fide
Our Tutor to Christ
Galatians 3:15-29

Paul has just given the Galatians their options, either works or grace. He has proven from OT Scripture that Abraham was justified not by works but by faith and that every believer, Jew or Gentile, is likewise saved by grace through faith.

Paul, being the gifted lawyer that he was, anticipates the arguments of his adversaries, the Judaizers, namely that when God gave the law to Moses the means of salvation changed. They would argue that God's covenant with Moses supplanted the covenant He had made with Abraham.

Read Galatians 3:15 – 18

- Paul mentions a covenant in v. 15, what is a covenant?
- What kind of covenant does he describe?
- What does he mean "I speak in terms of human relations"?
- When a covenant had been ratified could it be set aside or added to?
- What promise does he mention in v. 16?
- What parties were involved in that covenant?
- V. 17 – how does he explain his point of verses 15 and 16?
- What assumption does he say we must make in v. 18?
- What has God granted to Abraham?
- How was it granted?

Read 19-22

Paul again anticipates his opponents next question or argument.

- what question does he assume they will ask in verse 19?
- Is that a valid question in light of his argument?
- Why does he say the law was given?
- Transgressions?
- According to this verse how was the Law given?
- Until when?
- Until Who?
- V. 20 What does a mediator do?
- Why does he say God is only One? (Covenant with self)
- Is the Law then contrary to the promise of God? What is he asking?
- How does he answer his own question?
- Why so emphatically?
- What was the Law not able to do? (Impart life)
- If it had been able to what would righteousness have been based on?

- What is the argument of this entire letter?
- What struggle is going on in the church?
- How does verse 22 begin? (But)
- But what?
- What has the Scripture shut up everyone under?
- What does that mean?
- So that . . .

Read 23-29

Once again anticipates the next question, "What about those who came before Christ?"

- What time reference is given in verse 23?
- What does before faith came mean?
- What does we were kept in custody under the law mean?
- Shut up to the faith that which would later be revealed?
- How does v. 24 start? (Therefore)
- Therefore, what?
- What is a tutor? What do they do?
- How was the law a tutor?
- What did the law point to?
- How did it point us to faith in Christ?
- Now that faith has come what does Paul say? (25)
- Back to what statement in v. 26?
- What does it mean to be baptized into Christ?
- What does it mean to be clothed with Christ?
- What is the point of verse 28?
- Therefore if you belong to Christ,
 - Then you are Abraham's descendents (physically or spiritually)
 - according to what?
 - Works of the Law or Promise of Grace?

What applications can we make?

Praise covenant making faithful God

Live under covenant

Do we live like we are under the Law or under grace?

Do we treat all equally in Christ?

Galatians – Sola Fide

Labor Pains

Galatians 4:1-20

What theme did Paul take up in 3:15-29?

How did he conclude his argument about the two covenants in 3:29?

Read Galatians 4:1-6

- How does he tie the new section of his letter in with the last section?
- What is an heir?
- To what does he compare an heir?
- As long as what? (timeframe)
- Why does the heir who is a child not differ from a slave even though he owns everything?
- Under guardians and managers until when? (2)
- Historical background
- Why does he bring up this comparison? (3)
- What were we held in bondage under?
- What are the elemental things of the world?
- How does verse 4 begin?
- But what?
- What does “when the fullness of time came” mean?
- At that time what did God do?
- Why was that the fullness of time? The right time?
- How is the Son described? (born of a woman, born under the Law)
- Why? (5) so that what?
- What does redeem mean?
- How did that redemption work?
- As a result what do believers receive?
- Because we are sons what do we receive? (6)
- What does the Spirit do for us?
- Would we cry out to the Father apart from the Spirit?

Read 7-11

- Therefore? (7) no longer a slave but a son
- And if a son, then what?
- How does this all tie into what he said in vv. 1,2?
- Why does he begin v. 8 with “however”?
- However what?
- What time reference does he give? (at that time)
- At what time?
- When they did not know Christ, what were they slaves to?

- Those which by nature are no gods?
- What new time reference does he give in v. 9?
- What has happened in the interim?
- How does he describe them coming to know God? (depart from me for I never knew you)
- What question does he ask them? (9)
- What have they turned back to?
- How does he describe these things? (weak, worthless, elemental)
- How do they desire to be enslaved to these things again?
- What is he describing in v.10?
- What does he say is fear is? (11)
- How could he have labored over them in vain?

Read 12-20

- What does he ask them to do in v. 12?
- How does he ask them?
- How did he become like they are?
- Had they done anything wrong to Paul?
- In fact, how had they treated Paul? (vv. 13-15)
- Under what circumstances did he come to them and preach the gospel in the first place?
- How was his condition a trial for the Galatians?
- How could they have acted toward him?
- How did he say they acted toward him?
- What does he believe they would have been willing to do for him?
- What question does he ask in v. 15?
- What question does he ask in v. 16?
- Why is he asking these questions, what is his point?
- To whom is he referring in v. 17?
- What does he say they "eagerly seek"? How?
- What does he say they want to do? Why?
- What does he say is always good in v. 18?
- Why does he add the last phrase in v. 18?
- What does he call the Galatians in v. 19?
- In labor with them? (see v.11)
- How long in labor?
- What does Christ formed in you mean?
- What does Paul desire in v. 20?
- What tone has he been using?
- Why is he so perplexed by them?

What applications can we make?

Galatians – Sola Fide
Whose Your Mama?
Galatians 4:21-31

Some things just don't go together: oil/water, cats/dogs, drinking/driving, OJ/toothpaste, grace/works

“There cannot be two greater differences in the world between two things than there is between law and grace. There is always a tendency in us to confound the two things. They are as opposite as light and darkness, and can no more agree than fire and water; yet man will be perpetually striving to make a compound of them – often ignorantly, and sometimes willfully. They seek to bend the two, when God has positively put them asunder.” – Charles Spurgeon

Paul knew from personal experience what it was like to be under the bondage of the Law. He had spent his entire life attempting to earn God's favor by the things he did or did not do. Then one day Paul had a life-changing experience and he was set free.

After his brief parenthetical of personal comments and questions in vv. 12-20, Paul returns to the issue at hand and directly questions the Judaizers. He uses their Scriptures to demonstrate the danger of trying to mix the law and grace.

Read 4: 21 – 23

- What question does he ask in verse 21?
- To whom does he address the question?
- What does he mean by the question? (Do you not read your own law?)
- As a good lawyer will do he states the facts of the case in vv. 22 – 24
- First fact – it is written.
- Second fact – Abraham had two sons
- Third fact – one son was by a servant and one son was by a freewoman
- Fourth fact – the son of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh
- Fifth fact – the son of the freewoman was born according to the promise
- Where is all of this written?
 - The people –
 - The promise – Genesis 15:1-6
 - The problem – Genesis 16-18, 21
- Why did Paul draw their attention to this OT story?
- Children of Abraham?
- You may know the history but you are missing the point. Let me explain it to you.

Read 4:24-29

- What does he say this story is?
- What is allegory?
- Any cautions when allegorizing in Scripture?
- What does he say the two women represent?
- Has he talked about the two covenants before in his letter? (3:15ff)
- What details of the allegory does he give?

Hagar

Ishmael, son of slavery
Born according to the flesh
Mount Sinai
Present Jerusalem
Old Covenant
Law

Sarah

Isaac, son of freedom
Born according to the promise
Mt. Zion
Heavenly Jerusalem
New Covenant
Grace

- For those who are trying to please God with the obedience to the Law, who does Paul say is their mama?
- Your mother is Hagar
- Your brother is Ishmael
- You are in slavery to what? Legalism
- Born of the flesh nothing supernatural about it, what man can do
- Proceeding from Mt. Sinai what happened on Mt. Sinai?
- The present Jerusalem the religion being taught
- Hagar & Ishmael represent the Old Covenant, the Law, the represent what man must do perfectly and constantly to please God

On the other hand, your mama could be Sarah and your brother could be Isaac who represent the New Covenant that God made with man through Jesus. A covenant of promise and grace not works.

- Your mother is Sarah
- Your brother is Isaac
- You are free
- Born of according to the Spirit
- You are children of promise
- The Jerusalem above

Galatians – Sola Fide
Walk By the Spirit
Galatians 5:1-26

Read 5:1-6

- Why did Christ set us free?
- Freedom from what?
- Therefore, what? (1)
- Why does Paul single himself out in v. 2?
- Why would Christ be no benefit to them if they received circumcision?
- If they receive circumcision what would they be under? (3)
- And if they were under the Law, then they would also be under what else?
- Severed from Christ?
- Fallen from grace? Is that possible?
- Has he not been laying out their options and the subsequent consequences?
- In contrast, who does he describe in v.5?
- What are they waiting for?
- What is the only thing that matters in v. 6?

Read 5:7-12

- What did he say happened in v. 7?
- What does he say about those who were persuading them in v. 8?
- What does v. 9 mean?
- What application does it have in this context?
- In our context?
- According to verse 10 in whom does he have confidence? (read it carefully)
- What does he have confidence that they will not do?
- And what of those who have caused the distraction in the church?
- What does he mean by the first part of v. 11?
- How is the cross a stumbling block?
- How would it have been removed?
- Does v. 12 sound harsh?

Read 5:13-15

- What were they called to do? (13)
- Only what?
- How could they have turned their freedom into an opportunity for the flesh?
- Instead, what were they to do?
- For the whole law is fulfilled in what? (14)

- You can either serve one another (13) or what does Paul say will happen? (15)

Read 5:16-26

16-18

- o Does the heart behind an action matter to you?
- o Is it possible to coerce someone to do something?
- o Is that as meaningful as when the person wants to do the action?
- o What is the key difference of behavior modification? Changing one's actions or changing one's motivation?
- How can we not give opportunity to the flesh and love one another? (16)
- What does it mean to walk by the Spirit? (16, 17)
- How do you know if you are being lead by the Spirit? (18)
- What might crucifying your flesh on a daily basis look like?
- If Paul's concern is that we live lives of obedience why does he emphasize the Spirit over the Law?

Hiroo Onodo – fought WWII in the Philippines until 1974

Fought battle 30 years after it had already been settled

Many believers – Colossians 3:1-3

19-21

- Are there sins that are big or little?
- Culturally acceptable and unacceptable?
- Why is it easier to see the sin others easier than it is to see our own?
- Why does Paul say that those who practices these sins will not inherit the kingdom of God?
- Does that mean that Christians don't sin?
- Emphasis is on practice
- Doing follows Being
- How can we grow to become more sensitive to our own sins in order to cast them off?
- How do you know if you are not? (19-21)
- How can we specifically work on putting on the new self?
-
- What further evidence of the spirit-filled life does he give in v. 22?
- Is this a buffet?
- Is v. 24 an important verse?
- What does it mean to crucify the flesh?
- What does he mean if you live by the spirit then walk by the spirit? (25)
- Where does the power of our obedience come from?

- Phil. 2:12-13, Eph. 2:10, Rom. 6:22, 1 Cor. 15:1-2, Titus 2:11-12, Heb. 12:2
- What are the fruit of the Spirit?
- What the Spirit produces in us.
-
- What does walk mean?
- What final thing does he warn them concerning?
- Why is this an issue?
- Is it out of context?

Application

Galatians – Sola Fide

Burden Bearing

Galatians 6:1-18

Read 5:16-25

- How can we not give opportunity to the flesh and love one another? (16)
- What does it mean to walk by the Spirit? (16, 17)
- How do you know if you are being lead by the Spirit? (18)
- How do you know if you are not? (19-21)
- What further evidence of the spirit-filled life does he give in v. 22?
- Is this a buffet?
- Is v. 24 an important verse?
- What does it mean to crucify the flesh?
- What does he mean if you live by the spirit then walk by the spirit? (25)
- What does walk mean?
- What final thing does he warn them concerning?
- Why is this an issue?
- Is it out of context?

Read 6:1-2

- How did Paul finish his last thought in chapter 5?
- What tone has he set in those last few verses?
- How does he carry that over into chapter 6?
- If anyone is caught in a trespass what are the believers to do? (1)
- What does the word “caught” in that verse imply?
- Who are those who are spiritual and what does that mean?
- What does “restore” mean?
- In what spirit are people to be restored?
- What caution does he give?
- Is this church discipline?
- What does he tell them to do in v. 2?
- What does he mean by bear one another’s burdens?
- What does it fulfill?
- What is the law of Christ?

Read 6:3-5

- What is he warning against in v. 3?
- How do people think “they are something?”
- What does he instruct each person to do?

- Why work? (not something else like belief, heart, faith)
- What does v. 5 mean?
- How will we each bear our own load?

Read 6:6-10

- What do you think he means in v.6?
- Share what? (all good things)
- What does he tell them not to be deceived concerning? (whatever a man sows he will reap)
- Why does he add, God is not mocked?
- The one who sows for the flesh will reap what? (8)
- How do you sow to the flesh?
- The one who sows to the Spirit will reap what?
- How do you sow to the Spirit?
- What does he tell them to not lose heart in doing? (9)
- Had they demonstrated doing good to him in the past?
- So then, what does he say to do? (10)
- Especially to whom?
- Why to them?

Read 6:11-16

- Why v. 11? What does it tie into?
- To whom is he referring in v.12?
- How does he describe them?
- How does that tie back to v. 8?
- What is their motivation?
- Do we ever avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ?
- What additional info does he give about the Judaizers in v.13?
- Has their motivation changed?
- Do you think Paul was a proud man?
- Do you think he ever struggled with pride in the flesh?
- What did he proclaim in v. 14?
- In what does he want to boast?
- How do you boast in the cross of Christ?
- What does Paul say happened to his relationship with the world through the cross? (14)
- World?
- What does that mean?
- What were the implications for his life?
- V. 15?
- Paul wishes peace and mercy for those who do what? (16)
- And upon who else? (Israel of God)
- Is he implying the opposite of peace and mercy toward the others?

Read 6:17,18

- How does Paul conclude the matter?
- How did he bear the brand-marks of Jesus on his body?
- Could he have been drawing one final comparison/distinction to circumcision?

APPLICATION