



FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH | LIFE NOTES

GALATIANS: NO ADDITIVES

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

The entire purpose of this letter is to make clear the difference between the gospel of Jesus Christ and false gospels. Galatians attacks two false ideas in particular, legalism and lawlessness. It dismantles the lies of these ideas and paints a true picture of salvation by grace through faith alone. Paul stands firmly in defense of the gospel.

CONTEXT OF GALATIANS

The letter was written by Paul sometime around AD 50. On Paul's first missionary journey, he planted churches in Pisidia Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. These were Greek people – Paul's mission was to bring the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. Many people in these areas heard the message of Jesus Christ from Paul and accepted it. The message that Paul preached was a message of God's grace. Specifically, Paul emphasized that a person is saved by his faith in Jesus, not by his works. As Paul opened the door for Gentiles to experience Jesus, there were some Jewish teachers who did not buy this "faith alone" message. They believed that Gentile Christians, like Jewish Christians, needed to follow the traditional ceremonial customs from the Mosaic law. They taught that these Gentile believers had to observe all dietary laws and be circumcised in order to be fully accepted by God. Some of these Jewish teachers made their way into Galatia and were now teaching Paul's congregations that his message of "faith alone" was inadequate.

DIGGING DEEPER: GALATIANS 2:1-14

Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ²I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. ³Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴This 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. ⁵We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. ⁶As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message. ⁷On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. ⁸For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along. ¹¹When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

On Sunday, Kyle talked about 3 ways that Paul modeled healthy confrontation in this passage. Do you recall any of these? (1) Seek God for wisdom. (2) Confront privately. (3) Go to the source.

Which of these resonated with you?

How have you seen or been a part of unhealthy confrontation? What was the result?

When conflict arises, are you someone that runs for the extinguisher or do you like to move the ashes around?

In vv.1-10, Paul recounts the story of the Jerusalem Council from Acts 15. He points out that requiring Gentiles to be circumcised is a form of legalism.

Do you remember the definition of legalism from Sunday? Right living / wrong believing.

Why is legalism a problem?

What are some areas that you can be/have been legalistic in the past? (additives)

In vv. 11-14, Paul calls out Peter for his hypocrisy. How was Peter being hypocritical?

Do you remember the definition for hypocrisy from Sunday? Right believing / wrong living.

MOVING FORWARD

What is one area of growth for you?

- 1) Healthy Confrontation
- 2) Legalism
- 3) Hypocrisy

What do you need to confess in order to move forward in grace and forgiveness?

How can we pray for and support you in this?