



FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH | LIFE NOTES

FREEDOM

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

The entire purpose of this letter is to make a 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

Do you enjoy movie trailers? Why?

What words would be used if there were a movie trailer of your life?

READ GALATIANS 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.

On Sunday, Kyle said that the first 9 words of this verse could be the basis for the movie trailer on the book of Galatians. Agree or Disagree? Why?

What is it that we have been set free from?

We know the law is a wonderful thing. The law keeps us aware of God's plan for humanity. What does Paul mean when he says that we have been set free from the slavery of the law?

What are some ways that you can stand firm in the truth of Jesus + Nothing?

READ GALATIANS 5:13

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. **But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh;** rather, serve one another humbly in love.

What is the flesh?

What are some examples of indulging the flesh?

In Galatians, Paul teaches against 2 extremes – legalism and license. Looking at the comparison below, which one better describes you? Why?

The Snare of Legalism

Satisfies himself by following rules
What must I do?
Ruled by self-righteousness
All about not losing freedom

The Snare of License

Satisfies himself by rejecting rules
What can I do? How far can I go?
Ruled by desires and lusts
All about abusing freedom

On Sunday, Kyle said that a person who is being licentious is asking the question, “how far can I go?” That’s the wrong question. The question should be “how close to Jesus can I get?” What did you think of that observation?

What is an area of your life that you might be taking advantage of God’s grace in order to indulge the flesh?

MOVING FORWARD

READ GALATIANS 5:13-14

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **serve one another humbly in love.** ¹⁴ **For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

What is the opposite of indulging the flesh?
What is challenging about this one command?
How can you love someone else this week?