

“Faith Alone!”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

False teachers went to the Galatian churches shortly after Paul planted them and taught that they must practice the Mosaic Law and believe in Jesus in order to have eternal life. In other words, they taught works-righteousness rather than Christ’s-righteousness. So Paul wrote to these confused Galatian believers in order to correct this false teaching and help the churches live in the freedom they found in Jesus.

Paul’s argument against these false teachers included the example of Abraham, who “believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.” He also compared the difference between the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants and the purpose of the Law and God’s eternal promise to redeem a people by faith. In chapter 4, Paul explained that their faith in Christ which liberated them from their slavery to sin now afforded them the promised blessing of the Holy Spirit, who would enable them to identify with Jesus, the True Son and Heir of God.

Paul demonstrated his concern for the Galatians by appealing to them to “*become as I am, for I also have become as you are.*” Paul who was a Jew, because of Christ, no longer was bound to Judaism and therefore appealed to the Galatians that there was no need for them to become Jews. They were free in Christ. Further, Paul’s words were an appeal for them to imitate him, rather than imitate the false teachers. Because they were new creatures in Christ, their lives were to be lived in response to who they were in Christ rather than what they hoped to gain from Christ. Because they were righteous in Christ they were to live as Christ lived.

Paul concluded his argument of justification by faith by sharing the story of Sarah and Hagar, Abraham’s two wives. He illustrated through this story that just as Abraham and Sarah tried to fulfill God’s promise of children in their own strength by having a child through Hagar, the false teachers were trying to gain righteousness in their own strength. Further, just as God would miraculously provide a son through barren Sarah, He would miraculously save Galatian Gentiles and make them part of His family.

While the Galatians had not abandoned the faith, in Paul’s mind, they were close to it. So in Galatians 5:2-6 he warned them of the consequences of going under the knife and accepting circumcision. They would be cut off from Christ and fall away from grace because they were trusting in their own achievements rather than Jesus. However, if they were truly born again, the Holy Spirit would compel them to continue trusting Jesus until the final day of redemption.

These words of warning are just as important for us today as they were for the Galatians. Our salvation is by faith alone. There is no other option. The warning of the consequences of trusting something else is God’s means to preserve the faith of those who believe. God uses the severity of the warning to remind the church to continue to trust in Jesus. With that said, who are you trusting? As you prepare to gather with you Missional Community examine the consequences of trusting yourself and the promises of trusting Jesus. Be prepared to discuss your findings as well as the questions on the next page. Remember, your salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!

Message Outline

There is no other way to God except by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone.

If you trust in your achievement then...

1. Jesus is of no advantage to you (2).
2. You are under a curse (3).
3. You are cut off from grace (4).

If you trust in Jesus then...

1. The Holy Spirit compels you to keep trusting Jesus (5).
2. There is no place for pride (6a).
3. Your faith is never alone (6b).

Therefore,

1. If you trust yourself you will die apart from Jesus.
2. Cling to the cross as your only hope for righteousness.
3. Boast only in Jesus by showing His love to others.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Galatians 5:2-6:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray for the Haiti Mission Trip October 17-23. Will install water purifying system at Savane Carrie for the Shepherd Care Project.
- Pray for J & A and their children as they prepare for the mission field.
- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.