

“When False Teachers Come”

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.

Chapter 5 began with Paul’s great exclamation, “*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*” As a result, 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.

Paul then turned his attention from the Galatian believers to the false teachers who had, “*hindered them from obeying the truth*” (5:7). He delivers an indictment on them and proclaims that God will judge them and they will be cut off from the people of God. Paul’s words in this paragraph are alarming to the point of seeming crude. But the seriousness of his words instruct us even today. False teachers bring with them a false Gospel; another Gospel. What do we do when false teachers come? The answer is simple. Stay awake. Stay faithful by continuing to believe and preach the Gospel. And stay encouraged in the Lord. It is the Lord who not only saves us but keeps us by the power of His Spirit.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community examine the 7 indictments Paul delivers to the false teachers of his day. Have you been influenced by those who preach another Gospel? Like Paul, I have confidence in the Lord you won’t take their view! Continue to believe and preach the Gospel. Jesus is your hope. He alone keeps you and sustains you. This is how you should respond when false teachers come!

Message Outline

Those who preach a false Gospel will ultimately be judged and should be avoided.

Those who preach another Gospel...

1. Interfere with the faith(obedience) of believers (7).
2. Are not from God (8).
3. Will infect the whole church (9).
4. Will not win over true believers (10a).
5. Will be judged (10b).
6. Misrepresent the message and the messenger (11).
7. Are pagans masquerading as Christians (12).

Therefore,

1. Stay awake.
2. Stay faithful.
 - Continue to believe the Gospel.
 - Continue to preach the Gospel.
3. Stay encouraged in the Lord.

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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 5:7-12:

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 Farm Day, November 5, 2016 – Pray that “the world may know Jesus.”
- 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.