

The Galatians & Us

Galatians 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION

As we begin our study together in Galatians, I thought some definitions would be helpful. You may pick up on this about me—I am a big stickler for definitions! First, Grace—simply put, grace is unmerited favor. Westminster defines grace as “salvation and forgiveness extended to sinful humanity through Jesus Christ that is not deserved, and withholding the judgment that is deserved.” Second, Legalism—again, from Westminster, legalism is “a relationship or ethical system that is governed primarily by obedience to prescribed laws or rules.” Simply put, your relationship with God is determined by your works (law-keeping, rule-keeping). Third, the gospel—the gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ came and lived the life you never could have lived, died the death that you deserved, and defeated your enemies when he rose from the grave. He is your substitute, and if you put your faith in Him, forgiveness of sin and salvation is freely offered.

READ GALATIANS 1:1-5

QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- Why is it important to understand and be clear that the gospel is from God and not man?
- How does legalism undermine the gospel?
- Think through some examples of how legalism shows up in your own thoughts and actions. Try writing them down.
- What are some “Jesus + Something else = Salvation” messages that are taught today?
- Does free grace lead to carelessness about sin?
- Why is grace important for both non-Christians and Christians?

FOR FURTHER MEDITATION & MEMORIZATION

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” — Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)

PRAYER

Praise God for his grace and peace to you! Confess and repent of any ways you have relied on your own doing and not his grace. Ask the Lord to help you “preach the gospel” to yourself today. Pray for opportunities to share this message of grace with someone else.