

LG | Leader

[Galatians 5:13-15]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go the Lord in prayer.

- After hearing the sermon from Sunday, what most resonated with you? What were the takeaways for your family as a whole?
- In light of Sunday's message, have you resolved to make any life changes?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read Galatians chapter 5. Let's first gain some context for this passage. Who is the author and who is the audience? What genre of literature is this? Who recalls the theme and purpose of Galatians? [Let's take a moment to find these answers]

Paul is credited for authorship given the first verse. He is writing to the churches in Galatia. The genre of literature is a New Testament epistle (letter). Paul is writing to the Galatians because a false gospel has infiltrated the church declaring that one must be circumcised to receive salvation. Because of this, dissention is present in the church because they are split on what is true. Unlike many other letters Paul has written, there is no greeting, vividly displaying Paul's frustration with the current state of affairs.

2. What biblical cities were located in the province of Galatia?

Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe.

3. Why in the opening verse of Galatians, does Paul make it specific point to call himself an apostle?

Paul asserts himself as an authoritative figure, given that he himself started the churches (Acts 13-14) and that no man had granted him apostleship, rather, Jesus Christ himself gave him apostleship. It is important that Paul's voice is recognized as authoritative due to the many voices claiming truth in the church.

4. As we begin chapter 5, Paul begins by asking believers not to submit to a “yoke of slavery.” What is Paul referring to here?

The Jewish false teachers are attempting to convince believers to return back to the belief that circumcision is necessary for salvation, which was the OT Mosaic Law. But Christ has ushered in a new way to be grafted into the multi-racial (Jews and Gentiles) family of God. In this new covenant, faith in Christ puts us in right standing before God.

5. Verse 13-15 highlights freedom. What kind of freedom is Paul speaking about?

Jesus fulfills the law on our behalf by dying on the cross, thus giving believers freedom from the law. Paul agrees that the law was a good thing and a blessing, but the “bondage” of trying to obey the law was impossible for man. So, through His death, Jesus frees believers from the law to empower them with His spirit, in order that they would love one another.

6. Lived out, what does this freedom in Christ look like? How is it evidenced in the life of a believer?

[Hint: you may have learned these as a child]

Fruits of the Spirit: Galatians 5 22-24. The by-product of walking in step with the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit), is that you will produce these fruits. These fruits provide very helpful indicators to determine if someone is a true follower of Christ.

7. In light of what we have learned, in your own words, describe the spiritual climate in Galatia and what Paul was trying to communicate to the churches there.

[Allow your group to try to process out loud] – Example: Because Christians were split between Jewish (law driven) and Gentiles (grace driven) believers, Paul was bringing clarity to the gospel by explaining that Jesus sets us free from the law and gives us freedom to do what we ought, not whatever our flesh desires.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.