

Living Free
A Bible Study on the book of Galatians
Galatians 1:1 – 2:14
November 2, 2009

OPEN: In groups of three or four, share your name, what service you attend here at St. Andrew's, and one family tradition that you or members of your family look forward to on an annual basis.

STUDY: Review the Introductory Material.

Read Galatians 1:1-5. What does Paul say about himself immediately?

From what you read in the Introduction, what issue is Paul addressing immediately?

What did Christ do for us, according to verse 4?

Read Galatians 1:6-10. What is missing from the beginning of this letter that is present in other letters that Paul has written (see Romans 1:8, 1 Corinthians 1:4, and Philippians 1:3, for example).

Why is this missing?

What is Paul's concern?

What does Paul say about anyone who preaches a gospel different than his?

Why would he say such a thing?

Read Galatians 1:11-24. Where did Paul receive the gospel he preaches?

What was Paul's life like prior to meeting Christ?

What does he say about God in verses 15-16?

Does this remind you of any other Biblical figures?

What in particular did God call Paul to do, according to verse 16?

How did this call affect Paul's life?

Who did Paul see on his first visit to Jerusalem?

Read Galatians 2:1-10. What did Paul do the second time he went to Jerusalem?

Why did he do this?

Why is this important?

What does Paul call the people who complained about his preaching of the gospel?

Why?

What did the elders – Peter, James (Jesus' brother) and John decide?

According to Paul, what was the only stipulation put on him?

Why would this stipulation not be seen as “enslavement,” as circumcision was considered to be?

Read 2:11-14. What did Cephas (Peter) do that Paul objected to?

Why was this behavior considered to be against the gospel? Couldn't both views co-exist peacefully?

REFLECT

What are some examples of things that people say you need to do besides believe in Jesus in order to be a Christian?

Do Christians still ostracize some believers? If so, how?

If a pastor or lay minister today were to emphasize that he or she was called by God and not by human beings, would you find that persuasive? Why or why not?