

Living Free
A Bible Study on the book of Galatians
Galatians 5
November 23, 2009

OPEN: Think back through your history as a churchgoer, either at St. Andrew's or at other congregations. What was one time you were really proud of your congregation, or really grateful to be a part of your church? What happened to make you feel this way?

REVIEW:

What is the main reason Paul wrote to the Galatians?

What is Paul's response to this?

What are Paul's opponents saying about Paul?

What is Paul's response to what his opponents are saying about him?

How does Paul use the story of Sarah and Hagar to explain the difference between life under the law and life in Christ?

STUDY:

Read Galatians 5:1-12. How does Paul's statement in verse 1 sum up his argument in chapter 4?

Why is the insistence on following the law wrong?

In Christ Jesus, what is the only thing that counts?
What does that mean?

What is the meaning of verse 9, and how does that still affect the church today?

Read Galatians 5:13-15. What limit is there to our freedom?

How could one use their freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence?

What does it mean to be slaves of one another (verse 14)?

What is the commandment that sums up the law?

If we are set free from the law, why would Paul remind us of this commandment?

Read Galatians 5:16-26. What does Paul mean when he says “live by the Spirit?”

What does he mean when he urges us not to gratify the desires of the flesh?

What do “the works of the flesh” have in common?

Why does Paul talk about “works of the flesh” and “fruits of the Spirit?” Why not “fruits of the flesh” or “works of the Spirit?”

What does Paul mean by saying in verse 21 that those who do works of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God? Aren't we saved by grace through faith apart from works of the law?

Why is verse 26 important for Christian community? For the community at large?

REFLECT

Which fruit of the Spirit do you think is a gift you have?

Which fruit do you feel most in need of in your life?

When is it worthwhile to stand and fight for something in a congregation? When is it not? How can Christians know the difference?