

LIVE FREE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

In this series we will see the Apostle Paul confronting the false teachings in the church of Galatia. In the process we have the opportunity to join these first-century brothers and sisters in examining ourselves. How are we viewing the grace of God? How can we shift from trying to earn God's favor in our own strength and instead live free by faith knowing that we have God's acceptance?

Week Five: Choose Wisely

Text: Galatians 5

Sermon Summary:

This week we ponder the question: "What will we DO with our freedom?" Will we choose a list of "Rules to live by" and measure our worth and right-ness by how well we keep those rules? Will we choose to do as we please, orienting life around ourselves? Or, will we choose to love God and serve others in love? It's an important choice because who we are is shaped by what and who we serve.

Discussion Questions: *These three larger questions will drive our discussion:*

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?

- How do you define freedom? Why do you feel this word is so confusing to us at times?
- Can a person truly be free from responsibility and accountability? Why?
- Why does it seem that keeping the law, or a list of rules would be the best thing we could focus on? (Current events should give plenty of examples.) Why is legalism a bad choice? See Galatians 5:1-12.
- Can we choose to serve our selfish desires and the Holy Spirit at the same time? Why? Read Galatians 5:16-18.
- What does living for selfish desires ultimately produce? Read Galatians 5:19-21. What does living for the Holy Spirit ultimately produce? Read Galatians 5:22-23.

What are you going to do about it?

- Galatians 5 teaches us that God's plan for our freedom is that we would choose to give our lives to serve people in love.
 - What are some of the ways you are following the Holy Spirit into this choice?
 - What are some opportunities you have to serve people even more?

How can others in the group help you and pray for you?

- Pray for each other regarding the choices you each face and the struggles those choices produce.

Some Possible Applications:

An important part of living free is getting our eyes off of ourselves and serving others. Here are some ideas for living out what we've learned this week:

- Pray for your family, neighbors and coworkers that God would comfort them through these difficult times.
- Engage in a conversation about the current racial atmosphere with someone whose background is different from yours, and get their perspective. What can you learn? What would it look like to "count others as more significant than yourself"? (Philippians 2:3)

Go to the HCBC Small Groups website for discussion resources:

<https://www.hcbc.com/small-groups/resources/>

Here's a great discussion format for your small group:

[https://www.hcbc.com/images/uploads/Discuss_Racial_Justice_Healing_Un
ity_in_Small_Groups_v1.pdf](https://www.hcbc.com/images/uploads/Discuss_Racial_Justice_Healing_Unity_in_Small_Groups_v1.pdf)