

# Discussion Guide

Galatians 1:1-5

## **Opening Prayer**

**Guided Prayer:** Pray asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance in understanding and applying the truths discussed.

## **Recap**

The book of Galatians was written by the apostle Paul to a group of churches in what is now known as Central Turkey. Paul wrote this letter because there were some Judaizers, Jews professing to be Christians, who were infiltrating the churches and preaching a false gospel. They claimed that one needed to follow the works of the law in order to be saved. However, Paul combats against these false teachings by proclaiming the gospel: we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone, not by works of the law. In **Galatians 1:1-5**, Paul begins his letter with a standard greeting. He establishes who he is and his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ and God the Father. Paul pronounces grace and peace to the churches, rooted in Christ's work on the cross and rising from the grave.

## **Understanding the Text**

1. What is the difference between the law and the gospel? Why is it important to have these categories and how do they work together?
2. What is the difference between justification and sanctification?
3. Why does Paul need to establish his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ and God the Father in the opening line of his letter?
4. How does Paul incorporate the gospel in his one sentence greeting to the churches in Galatia?
5. How is Paul able to pronounce grace and peace to the Galatians?

## **Practical Application**

1. Does the Christian life ever feel like a heavy burden? If so, why?
2. How does legalism and performance-based Christianity add to the gospel? In what ways have you added to the gospel in your life?
3. What role does the law have in your Christian walk?
4. If works do not save us, what role does obedience have in our Christian life?
5. How can you do good works without adding to the gospel?

## **God Has More to Say**

- **Background to Galatians**
  - **Acts 9:1-31 (Paul's conversion)**
  - **Acts 13 (Paul and Barnabas chosen and sent by the church)**
  - **Acts 14 (Paul's ministry in the region of Galatia)**
  - **Acts 15 (The Jerusalem Council)**
- **Law & Gospel**
  - **Romans 3:19-20**
  - **Romans 6:14**
  - **Galatians 2:16, 21**
  - **Galatians 3:2-3**
- **Justification & Sanctification**
  - **Ephesians 2:8-10**
  - **Galatians 2:16**
  - **Galatians 3:11-14**
  - **Galatians 5:13**
  - **Romans 5:1-2**
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21**
  - **Philippians 2:12-13**
  - **2 Corinthians 5:17**
  - **John 15:1-5**
- **Paul's Apostolic Greeting (Verses 1-2)**
  - **Romans 1:1**
  - **1 Corinthians 1:1**
  - **Acts 14:27**
- **Grace, Peace & the Gospel (Verses 3-5)**
  - **Romans 1:7**
  - **1 Corinthians 1:3**

- **2 Corinthians 1:2**
- **Galatians 2:20**
- **John 10:11**
- **Isaiah 24:15**