

MESSAGE GUIDE

Freedom (A Study in Galatians)

Message Guide for March 31, 2019



CONNECT

Describe a time you received something for free. Maybe it was a gift card, you got bumped to a better room or rental car, or someone anonymously paid your Starbucks bill. How did the experience make you feel?

STUDY

Galatians 2:15-21 has Paul closing the first of three sections that make up the letter to the Galatians. This first section, made up of chapters 1 and 2, dealt with Paul's personal experience with the Gospel. To close things out, Paul sums up the importance that the Gospel is always about grace...even for the most religious person alive! Read through the passage and then spend some time reflecting on Paul's message by working through the following questions:

- 1) Understanding context in reading/studying the Bible is always important! What event did Paul describe right before launching into verses 15-21?
- 2) Why might a Jewish person of Paul's day think that they had different spiritual requirements than the Gentiles? Why did the false teachers who infiltrated the Galatian churches feel so strongly that Christ's death was not sufficient for salvation?
- 3) Look at verse 18: what is Paul trying to communicate with the idea of "rebuilding something that has been torn down?"

- 4) Galatians 2:20 is a key verse of the entire New Testament (and worthy of memorizing!) What does Paul declare in this verse? How does it tie into his argument against works-based salvation? How might we apply the teaching of this verse into our own life?

- 5) Check out verse 21. What does Paul mean in what he writes here?

APPLY

- Why can it be challenging to live a fully grace-driven Christian life, as opposed to trying to perform for God?
- What are some ways we might be tempted to "nullify God's grace," as Paul described in verse 21?
- Take a look at Matthew 11:28-30. How would you say your salvation experience lines up with what Jesus describes in these verses? Are you resting in Him? Do you view His leadership in your life as a positive thing, or does it feel burdensome?

