

MESSAGE GUIDE

Freedom (A Study in Galatians)

Message Guide for April 7, 2019



CONNECT

The message started off with two intense questions: “What are you willing to fight for?” and “What are you willing to die for?” What are some ways you would respond to those questions?

STUDY

The overarching narrative of the book of Galatians is Paul putting up a fight for the Gospel of grace. Grace had come under attack (by means of some false teachers), and Paul pulled out all the stops to defend it. He knew what he was willing to fight for! This week’s passage begins a section of Galatians where Paul begins teaching the vital importance of grace in relation to Christianity. We covered Galatians 3:1-6. Give those verses a read through and then spend some time responding to the following questions:

1) How does verse 1 describe Paul’s reaction to the Galatian’s apparent drift from Gospel of grace back into religion that is merit-based?

2) In the second part of verse 1, Paul writes about how “Jesus was publicly portrayed as crucified.” Why does Paul bring up the crucifixion in trying to battle against works-based religion?

3) In verses 1-6, Paul asked a series of rhetorical questions. What questions did Paul ask, and what was the intention of Paul asking each one of these questions?

4) In verse 3, Paul again calls his readers foolish and reminds them that, although they have received the Spirit, they are still trying to please God by observing the law. Can you think of any ways in which you try to please God by doing something other than focusing on Him and your relationship with Him?

APPLY

What words might you use to describe Paul's emotional state as he wrote the book of Galatians? Why did he have these emotions?

Why is it so important to defend the Gospel of grace? What other aspects of Christianity are prone to being attacked, demanding that we do battle in their defense?

Paul described the Galatians as being "bewitched" because they were embracing a hybrid, works-based approach to Christianity rather than holding fast to grace. What are some other ways we can become bewitched (which literally means to be "cast under a spell), and thus lose sight of those things that are most important about our faith?

Why is it difficult for some people to embrace grace?

