

Galatians - Freedom in Christ

Message by Pastor Dallas, The Naz

Week 8 - November 9th, 2025

[Link to Sunday Service](#)

Summary

This week we explore Galatians 5:1-15, addressing the danger of adding requirements to salvation beyond faith in Christ. The Galatians were being influenced by Judaizers who insisted that circumcision and following the law were necessary for salvation, in addition to faith in Jesus. Paul strongly refutes this, declaring that salvation is by grace through faith alone - nothing more, nothing less. Modern versions of this same error exist, including "moralistic therapeutic deism" - the belief that God simply wants us to be good people and that good people go to heaven. Scripture declares no one is truly good except Jesus, and that our righteousness comes only through Him. When we add anything to the gospel of grace, we risk severing ourselves from Christ and falling away from grace. True freedom in Christ leads to serving others in love, fulfilling the law's ultimate purpose.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in your presence, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us through Your Word. Help us to set aside any distractions or preconceived notions, and make us receptive to the truth You want to reveal to each of us. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will guide our discussion and help us to encourage one another as we grow in our understanding of Your grace and love. May we be humble and teachable, ready to examine our own hearts and lives in light of Your truth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you've received for free that was really valuable or meaningful to you? How did it feel to receive something without having to pay for it or earn it?

Key Verses

- Galatians 5:1-15
- Romans 3:10-12
- Matthew 11:29-30

Questions

1. What are some modern examples of 'adding to the gospel' that you've observed in church culture or your own life?
2. Why do you think it's so difficult for people to accept that salvation is completely free and not based on our performance?
3. What does Paul mean when he says 'you are severed from Christ' if you try to be justified by the law? How serious is this warning? (Gal 5:4)
4. The sermon mentioned that 'little leaven leavens the whole lump.' What are some small compromises or false ideas that can gradually corrupt our understanding of the gospel? (Gal 5:9; 1 Cor 5:6; 15:33)
5. How does understanding that 'no one is good except Jesus' change the way we view ourselves and others?
6. Paul says that in Christ, distinctions like race, gender, and social status don't matter for our identity. How should this truth impact how we treat others and view ourselves?
7. What does it look like practically to use our freedom in Christ to 'serve one another in love' rather than as 'an opportunity for the flesh'? (Gal 5:14-15)

Life Application

This week, examine your own heart and mind for any 'leaven' - false ideas or requirements you may have added to the simple gospel of grace. Identify one area where you might be trying to earn God's favor through performance rather than resting in His free gift of salvation. Practice receiving God's grace freely in that area, and look for one practical way to serve someone else in love as a response to the freedom you have in Christ.

Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding us that our salvation and relationship with You is based entirely on Your grace and not our works. Help us to resist the temptation to add requirements to the gospel message. Where we have fallen into legalism or performance-based Christianity, please restore us to the joy of your salvation. Give us courage to speak truth in love to others, even when it's difficult, and help us to receive correction with humble hearts. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.