



SET FREE

A STUDY IN GALATIANS

Small Group Study Guide

OVERVIEW

Last week: Religion is believing that following rules and rituals makes us good – better than others – and qualifies us for God’s love. Galatians is Paul’s response to the religion that the Galatians were practicing.

This week: Many people who profess to be Christians are actually practicing Moral Therapeutic Deism, meaning that they believe in a God and they try to be moral. But Moral Therapeutic Deism is not the gospel. The gospel is described in many places in the Bible and Pastor Mike described it as the loving activity of God by which we can be forgiven, redeemed, adopted into his family, and sanctified.

He then brought out four things to note about the Gospel:

1. We are profoundly broken.
2. The wound is so deep that we cannot help in our rescue.
3. We are saved by grace.
4. It is an instantaneous event.

WARM-UP

1. Did the Galatians study come to anyone’s mind this week? If so, in what context?
2. Share if anyone took the challenge to read Galatians. Did you learn anything new or did anything stick out to you?

READ

Galatians 1:1-9

DISCUSS

1. Mike quoted a REACH devotion in which a woman said she was taught to “Believe and behave—believe in Jesus and be good. If I do that, God will love me.” Have you ever thought the same thing? Maybe you still do. Discuss with the group.
2. Today we are often OK letting people believe whatever they want, as long as they are sincere. Is this problematic? Why or why not?
3. Read verses 8-9. What do you think about the implication that people can be under God’s curse?
4. It’s not faith + works= salvation, but faith=salvation + works. Sometimes we think we’re working out our salvation when in reality we are working to “earn credit” with God. How do you balance that in your life? (see also James 2:14-26 and Ephesians 2:8-10)
5. The “good news” assumes the bad news: we are broken beyond repairing ourselves. Is that something that you have considered before? How does that make you feel about the Gospel?
6. Look back to the four points from Mike’s sermon mentioned above. Is there one that is helpful/new to think about? Is there one that you don’t agree with or have a hard time swallowing?
7. If you had a chance to share the gospel with someone who hadn’t heard it, or maybe is practicing Moral Therapeutic Deism, what would you say?

REFLECT

1. The Gospel is not just good news for people who don’t know Christ, it’s for Christians as well. If you’re not a Christian, spend some time reflecting on how it could affect your life. If you are a Christian, how should the good news of your rescue affect your life?
2. This week, read through Galatians again and write down a few things to discuss next time you meet as a small group.