

Galatians – Part V

How Not to Be a Galatian – Galatians 4-5

Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- What are some ways that legalism creeps into our thinking?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Galatians 4:8-11.
 - Why do you think the Galatians kept turning back again to the “weak and worthless” ways of living the Christian life?
 - How can observing special days, months, seasons, years, and other religious celebrations/traditions be a return to works-oriented or law-based acceptance by the Lord?
 - How can observing special days, months, seasons, years, and other religious celebrations/traditions be a blessing to a God-honoring life?
- Read Galatians 4:21-26.
 - How can you explain this story? What was Paul’s point?
 - What are some ways not already mentioned that people today attempt to take their standing with God into their own hands?
- Read Galatians 5:7-12.
 - What do you think was the motivation of these false teachers?
 - Why was Paul so serious about refuting and destroying the influence of these false teachers?
 - What did Paul mean in verse 12? Why was Paul so graphic?
- Read Galatians 5:16-18.
 - Who is the Christian’s partner in living out the Christian life?
 - What does this passage promise will happen if you walk by the Spirit?
 - Describe how you see and experience the battle between the flesh and the Spirit in your life?

Respond

- What religious practices in your Christian life lead you to a greater understanding of the gospel and what practices lead you, like the Galatians to move away from the gospel?
- What advice would you give a Christian who is struggling under the weight and pressure of living a godly Christian life? How would you use Galatians 5 to encourage that person?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Paul reacts so strongly against circumcision. Why did God command circumcision in the first place? What role did circumcision play? What is the role today?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (3/02)	Galatians 5
Tuesday (3/03)	Matthew 21:33-22:14
Wednesday (3/04)	Matthew 22:34-23:12
Thursday (3/05)	Matthew 23:13-39
Friday (3/06)	Matthew 25:1-30

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (3/02) — Galatians 5

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (3/03) — Matthew 21:33 – 22:14

- The parable of the Tenants (21:33-44) teaches many truths. One truth the parable underscores is the patience and the love of God, even with those who rebel against him. What are a few ways the Lord has shown you his unusual patience and love?
- We see one of the identifying traits of a true believer in 21:43. What is that trait? What are the evidences that trait is present in your life?
- In 22:5 we see a couple reasons why the people of this parable rejected the invitation of the king. What are the three most common reasons people reject the invitation of the Lord today?

Wednesday (3/04) — Matthew 22:34 – 23:12

- When Jesus was asked about the greatest command, he didn't identify something we should not do (You shall not...), but he identified what we should do (22:37). Write down three ways you can demonstrate this kind of passionate love for the Lord today.
- Similar to the first commandment, the second one is positive as well. Write down three ways you can demonstrate your love for your neighbor today or tomorrow.
- In 23:2-11, Jesus is sharing some pretty pointed words about the scribes and the Pharisees. Their main issue in these verses is that their religion was just for show. They were more interested in impressing others than in really serving and honoring the Lord. Think about your own walk with the Lord. Are there elements of your spiritual service that are more about impressing others? According to 23:12, what are some specific things you can do differently?

Thursday (3/05) — Matthew 23:13-39

- Jesus accused the scribes and Pharisees of being way too picky about some of the lesser aspects of the law while ignoring the most important parts like taking care of others, showing mercy and being faithful (23:23-24). Are there any ways this is also true of you? Are you focusing too much on the small things and ignoring some big issues? Are you judging others on some minor issues while failing to be faithful to God behind the scenes?
- Jesus gives several illustrations of hypocrisy. Reread the illustration he gives in 23:25-26. Write down in one or two sentences the warning that Jesus is giving in your own words.
- In 23:37-38, Jesus speaks to the people of Jerusalem about how much he wanted to do for them if they would have been willing. Are you struggling with some things in your life that you know God would help you with if you would only turn it over to him and ask for his help?

Friday (3/06) — Matthew 25:1-30

- The message of Jesus' parable in 25:1-13 is that we should be spiritually prepared for the end. If you knew for certain that Jesus was coming back for you before tomorrow morning, what would you need to do to prepare? Make a list. Jesus admonishes us to make that preparation now.
- When Jesus speaks of talents he is talking about our abilities, opportunities and strengths. What are the talents you have been given that could be used in service of the Kingdom of God?
- Look back at your list of talents (abilities, opportunities, strengths). Which ones have you buried? Which ones are you using to their full potential? Which ones are being only half leveraged for the Kingdom?