

No Other Gospel: *an 8-Week Study of Galatians*

The Story Houston's Fall 2020 Discipleship Season

Session Five: The "Gospel" of Tradition

Introduction

Welcome to week five of our Fall 2020 study of Paul's letter to the Galatians! For eight weeks, we're exploring the words written by the Apostle Paul 1,950 years ago in the year 50 AD. This letter, called *Galatians*, may be the earliest of Paul's thirteen letters that are included in the Bible, and if so, that would make Galatians the oldest book in the New Testament.

Our learning each week is broken down into three categories: First, we'll spend twenty minutes learning about the CONTEXT of Galatians. Second, we'll spend twenty minutes exploring the particular CONFLICT that Paul is addressing in that week's reading. And third, we'll discuss the CORRECTION Paul offers the Galatians to get back on track.

This course has three requirements:

1. Do the work. Read the assigned readings. Write your answers in the Study Guides.
2. Listen to *The Story at Home Podcast* for more in-depth teachings on Galatians.
3. Ask questions. Ask the teachers on Wednesday nights. Ask your Group leaders and fellow members. Ask God in prayer.

This Week's Text

Read Galatians 4:8-20 twice, once silently and once aloud, making notes of any words and phrases that you're not sure about, and writing down any questions that immediately come to mind.

Context

What were the traditions first century Christians were still clinging to? Why were they so significant?

What are the traditions that current Christians have created today?

What's the relationship between following human traditions versus following Jesus?
(see also Mark 2:23-28)

Conflict

What are the Galatians doing that makes Paul so angry?

A "turn back" (verse 9) is an indication that the Galatians are going back to what they came from. What are they returning to? Is Paul saying that Judaism is Paganism?

Why does Paul criticize the observance of holy days in verse 10?

If the Galatians came to know God through Christ, what were they turning against to become slaves once more? How is this a return to slavery?

How would you characterize true freedom in your walk with Christ? How are you tempted to return to the bondage of sin?

Correction

What command does Paul give in verse 12?

What does it mean to know God, and how do we know God through Christ?

What was Jesus' solution to the conflict created by tradition? (see also Mark 7:5-9)

But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Galatians 4:8