

25 April



### Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Book of Galatians – Week 8



### Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever had to correct a friend or family member in what they believe with regards to salvation?
2. According to v.8; who were the believers enslaved to; before they got to know God? (**Those that by nature are not gods; "idols"**).
3. What was Paul's fear in v.11? (**To labour over the believers in vain**).
4. How do we know that Paul's Gospel message was well received at first? (**See - v.14; you received me as an angel of God**).



### Let's go deeper

5. How do we know that the believers loved Paul? (**See - v.15; you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me**).
6. What was the result of Paul telling the believers the truth of the Good news of Jesus in v.16? (**Paul became their enemy**).
7. According to v.19; what is Paul's great desire for the believers? (**That Christ is formed in them**).
8. True or false; Paul is very concerned for the believers in Galatia? (**True; I am perplexed about you – see v.20**).



### Let's apply this

#### 9. Grace versus law:

Grace is the work Jesus Christ did **for you** fulfilling the demands of the law. The work Jesus Christ does **in you** through the person, presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The work Jesus Christ does **through you** to live a fruitful life.

Law is what I do for God, not what God does for me. Law is about my performance not Jesus' performance. Law is about me doing things for God's love, not from God's love.

- **Is your relationship with God mainly about law or grace?**

### SUMMARY:

- **The book of Galatians – No Other Gospel**

**Read:** Galatians 4:8 – 20

**v.8 – 10;** We see the doctrinal error of the Galatians. Paul felt that most of these Galatians were true believers in Christ, for they knew the true God of heaven and earth through Christ. Notice how careful Paul is in his theology, for he refers to salvation as the time the Galatians first came to know Christ: "You know God." But then he qualifies this statement by the words, "rather are known by God." Paul knew clearly that salvation was all of God through Christ. Salvation is by grace through faith (see Ephesians 2:8). The cause of salvation is grace; the means of salvation is faith.

**v.11 – 12;** Paul felt all the trouble he spent over them to bring them to maturity in Christ had been wasted. Instead of growing in liberty with which Christ had set them free, they slipped back into the bondage of legalism. Paul's great desire was that these Galatians would be free in Christ like he was free in Christ. Legalism was no part of Paul's faith, for legalism always kills the spirit of Christ.

**v.13 – 16;** When Paul first came to Galatia to preach the gospel, he was afflicted with a serious physical disease. It appears that he was suffering from an eye disease. This disease makes the eyes red, swollen and puss and is very unpleasant to look at. However, Paul's appearance did not cause the Galatians to reject or despise him. In fact, they received him as a messenger of God, and a representative of Jesus Christ. In the beginning, they recognized Paul's apostolic authority. In those first days of Paul's ministry with them, they were so satisfied, pleased and proud of Paul and his work among them because he brought them grace from God. They would have done anything for Paul, even pluck out their own eyes and give them to him if it were possible. They were excited about Paul and he was the "apple of their eye." A sort of role model and mentor.

**v.17 – 20;** Paul points out that the false teachers were not sincere in their devotion to the Galatians or they would tell them the truth or at least expose them to the truth. These false teachers were shutting out the Christians from Paul and the true message of grace. They kept the truth from the Galatians by one means or another. False teachers never give all sides of an issue. They are narrow to their viewpoint.

Paul in the Book of Galatians is very stern towards the Galatians because of the doctrinal error which they had fallen into in his absence. He wants them to know he loves them and he longs to see Christ formed in them. However, he is perplexed about them. He is angry and frustrated with their failure to come out of this false teaching of salvation by works.