

**True Freedom**  
**A Study in Galatians**  
**Galatians 1: 1-10**

Galatians is all about \_\_\_\_\_.

The churches in Galatia were in God's ICU!

Paul is in emergency mode.

**Paul says...**

- No \_\_\_\_\_
  
- No \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- No \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Message Application:**

Go down the aisles of any major grocery store and you will find a multitude of choices for any one product. The other day I decided I would count how many different brands of coffee were offered at one of our local supermarkets.

I was up to 25 when someone came up to me and asked where they could find the charcoal! I guess they thought I worked there and was doing inventory.

We do like having options. In a blind taste test the average person probably couldn't distinguish between brands of coffee; but don't take away the option.

I guess that is fine with food brands and such. However, when it comes to the Good News of Jesus there is no other option. The Apostle Peter told the ruling Jews of his day, *"12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among people by which we must be saved."* Acts 4:12

Jesus said of himself, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* John 14: 6

When we understand the truth of the exclusiveness of Jesus it is easier to understand the strong words Paul used in our Sermon today. It is a message that the world doesn't understand until they are drawn to the Gospel by the Holy Spirit. It is a message that many Christians struggle with. It may seem odd to hear that Christians struggle with the exclusiveness of the Gospel, but I believe they do. I have seen this played out in two ways.

One way is the thought that the Christian's "religious" friend or loved one may not be an actual Christ-follower because they truly haven't accepted true salvation. We might be struggling with the fact that good works, church membership, or church traditions will not get a person into Heaven. I hear this conflict from time to time. "My aunt So and So is such a wonderful person, she doesn't believe in Jesus but, I'm sure she is going to be in Heaven." Such thoughts about someone we love are human. The Scripture however tells that we must be born again.

If you have someone in your life that is not trusting in the one and only Gospel truth; do not rationalize in your mind and heart that they are OK. Rather this week allow the fact of uncertainty to compel you to pray for their salvation. Ask Jesus to give you boldness to speak the truth in love. Ask Jesus to open up an opportunity where you can tell them the gospel truth.

The second way I have seen a struggle over the exclusiveness of the gospel is in the area of Christian growth. As Christians we need to be unapologetic when it comes to the truth. We are to speak the truth in love no matter how unpopular that truth may be. For many believers the idea of standing against the current of the culture is scary. The idea of being considered intolerant shakes them down to their core. This is a popular problem for Christ-followers.

This week please take some time to examine your spiritual backbone. Paul told Timothy, "*7 For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.*"

2 Timothy 1:7

Pray for the spirit of power to help you stand for the truth no matter it's exclusiveness.

Peace & Grace

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