

## **GALATIANS: Jesus + Nothing = Gospel**

### **DG Discussion Guide: Episode 8**

#### ***Galatian 5:1-12***

1. In verse 1, what has Christ done for us? What was the danger that Paul was concerned about?
2. Paul had mentioned circumcision briefly in chapter 2 with regard to the refusal to allow Titus to be circumcised, but here he treats it as the core ritual of the whole debate over law vs. grace. What did circumcision represent in Paul's argument?
3. In v. 4, what are the two consequences for those who seek to be justified by law (the merit of human effort)? How do you understand these two statements?
4. Law keeping does not, and cannot, give hope (v. 5). Why?
5. What are the real expressions of saving faith (vs. 6)?
6. Paul stated that the Galatians started "running a good race" but were hindered from "obeying the truth" by putting confidence in their circumcision. How can you determine the difference between legalistic living and "running a good race" and "obeying the truth"?
7. Paul's wish in v. 12 for the agitators who require circumcision to go all the way and emasculate (castrate) themselves is pretty harsh language! Did it surprise or concern you? How can it be explained?

#### ***Applying the Text:***

1. Paul's harsh language toward the false teachers shows us the seriousness of misleading other believers. How should this attitude affect the way you lead or disciple others?
2. Most likely, you are not being tempted daily to live according to all of the regulations of the Old Testament law! But how might you be drawn

toward an “earning favor” mentality in your walk with God? In what ways do you feel most prone to wander away from the freedom that God has given you through faith in Jesus, into a soul-destroying legalism instead?

(The application questions are taken from *Galatians: The Gospel of Free Grace 13-Lesson Study* by Jon Nielsen and Philip Graham Ryken)