

Don't Go Back

Galatians

Detailed Outline from the Sermon on May 25, 2008

A brief blessing (1:3-5)

Time to blast away (1:6-2:21)

“I am astonished!” (1:6)

You are so quickly turning away from what you learned from me.

The gospel that is no gospel at all (1:6-9)

Circumcision party and legalism - This is not good news you're being taught.

Remember Paul's credentials (1:10-2:5)

Remember who I am (apostle) and remember what I taught. I didn't make this up!

Peter to the Jews, Paul to the Gentiles (2:6-10)

You know Peter, God's primary instrument –to the Jews; – Paul to the non-Jews.

Even Peter had it wrong for a while. (2:11-21)

He needed convincing and began catering to the circumcision party.

“I have been crucified with Christ.” (2:20)

We died to all of that old way - trying to be justified by human behavior.

“Did Christ die for nothing?” (2:21)

If righteousness can be attained by the right lifestyle or religious calisthenics, then Christ died for nothing.

Another heat wave (3:1-2:5)

“You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?” (3:1)

Paul knows, of course. He probably knows the false teachers by name.

Don't replace the Spirit with human effort. (3:1-14)

Please, the good things that happened were from the Spirit, not rule-keeping.

Remember the purpose of the Law. (3:15-25)

The Law didn't interrupt previous covenants; it informed them, But the law proves that we are prisoners to sin (22). The law leads us to Christ with our desperation so that only faith in Christ justifies us by God's grace.

The Real Gospel (3:26-4:7)

In a nutshell we are children of God by faith. (3:26-27)

That's the real gospel. When you were baptized, you were clothed with Christ; set free to be who you were made to be.

God has broken down barriers of distinction. (3:28-29)

No more Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. If we belong to Christ, we're all heirs of God.

The Spirit who calls out "Abba!" (4:1-7)

When the time was ripe, God sent his Son to redeem people enslaved by the Law. Then we found our voice, so now we can call out to God in familiar terms: Abba! Daddy! No longer slaves – kids!

Remember the good old days (4:8-20)

Even those born as slaves to pagan Gods, God set you free. (4:8-11)

Do you really want to be slaves again?

"We had a good thing going When I came I was ill. You cared for me. I told you about Jesus." (4:12-16)

"What happened to the joy? Remember what we had? What you had? So much life and joy!" (4:15)

Displaced zeal (4:17-18)

"Now, you still have zeal, but it's all displaced. Now you're zealously guarding laws and behaviors."

"This hurts like childbirth!" (4:19-20)

"Oh, I wish I could be there so I could change my tone!"

Freedom! (4:21-5:6)

A history lesson (4:21-31) about Hagar and Sarah -
Sarah's child born of a promise (Isaac)

Free to be free (5:1)

God has done this whole thing; start to finish to set you free in Christ.
Freedom is a core value...a thing so fundamental. It is for freedom Christ set you free.

So stand firm. (5:1)

Don't go back. Don't try to be justified by the law.

“The thing that really counts is faith, expressing itself through *love*.” (5:2-6)

So what happened?

Who cut in on you? (5:7-8)

You were running a good race.

A little yeast (5:9)

A few influential people who think they're smart...

“I hope the knife slips!” (5:12)

They want to be circumcised.

Of course, freedom doesn't mean indulgence (5:13-6:10)

The minute some start preaching freedom, people start indulging and pretending, the law has no value.

Serve one another in love (5:13)

If you want to focus on behavior, try service!

The summation of the law (5:14)

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Life in the Spirit (5:16-21)

But this is how we do it. We live in the Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit's work (5:22-23)

You want to see real fruit, live in the Spirit. The fruit of the flesh is awful.

The crucified life (5:24)

So if you need to use sharp objects, crucify yourself. Cut off and kill all the old things that defy life in the Spirit.

Keeping in step (5:25)

Keep in step with the Spirit.

Gentle and humble restoration (6:1-5)

So now, instead of hammering each other with the law, gently restore one another when you fall into sin. Make sure you let yourself be tested before you correct others.

The Spirit's pleasure (6:6-8)

Sow evil things, reap evil. Sow to please the Spirit.

Let's not get weary of doing good (6:9)

We please the Spirit by letting Him lead us into good things. Don't grow weary of that.

Do good to all, especially those among the family of believers. (6:10)

In Summation (6:11-18)

Two dangerous slippery slides

Legalism and libertinism