

I. Review

- a. Galatians is a study in opposites. Paul makes multiple contrasts and comparisons; what are a few examples?
 - i. Law and _____
- b. Freedom vs. Slavery – Gal 5:1
 - i. Conclusion of argument using Hagar and Sarah as examples (4:21-5:1)
 - ii. Christ has set us free. Christianity is freedom. Keep your freedom.
 - iii. Freedom from what?
 - iv. Hinge between two passages - 4:21-31 and 5:2-12

II. V. 2-6 Know What You're Buying: Circumcision is Bondage for Gentiles

- a. Paul's authority – hearkens back to ch. 1 & 2
- b. Paul's warning – builds on pastoral relationship in ch. 4
- c. Paul's claim—you will be throwing away Christ's work, the Gospel you believed – ch. 1, 3
 - i. Circumcision is more than a ritual, it's a theological symbol
 - ii. Binds one to whole law and negates grace
- d. Paul highlights faith, hope and love
 - i. Circumcision has no value for salvation
 - ii. Role of the Spirit – ties back to 3:2-3

III. V. 7-12 Stay on Track and Choose Wisely

- a. Paul's opposition – cut in on the Galatians who were running well (1:7)
- b. Paul's concern – contamination spreads like yeast
- c. Paul's confidence – in the Lord, in the Galatian's freedom
- d. Paul's self-defense – “I am not teaching circumcision”
- e. Paul's challenge – circumcision or the cross, what will you choose?
 - i. “Must choose -- can't add circumcision to Christ and have both” (Stott)
- f. Paul's cutting remark – show your devotion, would require separation from God's people (Deut 23:1)

Discussion Questions:

1. Altering and adding to the gospel is a common heresy throughout the centuries, what makes it tempting to do so?
2. “It takes a good heresy to make good doctrine” – what doctrine(s) does Paul clarify in Galatians?
3. Paul warns the Galatians as a pastor and spiritual friend. When has a spiritual friend warned you in a similar way? How did you respond? What would it take to be this kind of friend?
4. Yeast could be likened to a viral video or trending hashtag today. What is the danger and how does Paul instruct the Galatians to guard against it? How can we protect ourselves from getting caught up? What specific steps could you take?