



## **Set Free for Freedom June 2**

### **Discussion Questions**

Read Galatians 5:1-16

1. What does "Judaizing" mean (and not mean!) in the context that the sermon describes? What does it mean for the Christian faith if "Judaizing" rules the day? How does "Judaizing" undercut the gospel?
2. In what ways can Christians still operate today like the Judaizers described in Galatians?
3. Do you have a pet "work" that you believe others must do (or avoid) to enjoy God's favour more fully? Maybe you wouldn't say people are saved by it – because we know that is bad theology – but perhaps at times you feel or act like their status as "good Christians" is in jeopardy because of it?
4. Who might you be excluding from the gospel? Who is the person or group of people that you just cannot imagine being in the fold, included in the "all" of Paul's "you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28)? How might God be challenging you to reconsider?
5. In what areas of your life have you hardened your heart to the free grace of God? Where are you under a yoke of slavery instead of finding the freedom that the love and grace of Jesus bring? In what ways have you been motivated by the grace of God?

## Galatians 5:1-16

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>2</sup> Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. <sup>3</sup> Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. <sup>4</sup> You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. <sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

<sup>7</sup> You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup> Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. <sup>9</sup> A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. <sup>10</sup> I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. <sup>11</sup> But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offence of the cross has been removed. <sup>12</sup> I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.