

Week of May 14 - Small Group Lesson Lesson 5

Connect

Why do you think many countries have public holidays? Are they important for society? What do you think happens when governments try abolishing them? (If time allows, search for “Denmark, Great Prayer Day”)

Verses - Galatians 5:7-12 (NKJV)

7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? **8** This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you. **9** A little leaven leavens the whole lump. **10** I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. **12** I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

Study

1. In Galatians 5:1-6, Paul is speaking to believers who have not been circumcised (gentiles) and teaching them that they should not allow themselves to become circumcised (be converted to Judaism to then be saved).

   If nothing can separate us from the love of God, why is circumcision so bad? (Galatians 2:16, 21; Romans 11:6; Galatians 5:6)

2. At the beginning of v.7, Paul says "You ran well," using the past tense. How have they stopped running well? What does Paul mean by this? How can they remedy their running form? (Galatians 3:3-5, 5:1; Ephesians 5:18)

3. How does Paul feel about this person who has been troubling them? Why is it not important who it is in Galatia? (Galatians 5:7-10,12)

APPLY: What are signs that someone is trying to get you to leave behind the simple faith in Christ which leads to salvation, and start doing things that lead you away from faith in Christ? What would you say to them? (v8)

DISCUSS: In what ways is the Gospel message "offensive?" How should we react when we preach the gospel and it is rejected as being offensive? What would you say to them? What if they claim to be a Christian?

Share

What does the assurance of salvation mean to you? How does it bring you comfort? How should it motivate us to glorify God and show the world Jesus Christ? (Matthew 5:16)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray the Lord helps us to love others and show the world we're His disciples.
- Pray we will give grace to our weaker brothers and sisters in Christ.