

**The Challenges to Freedom
Galatians 1:1-9**

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“Galatians, with its trumpet call to Christian freedom, has time and again released the true gospel from the bonds in which well meaning but misguided people have confined it so that it can once more exert its emancipating power.”

F.F. Bruce

Why Was Galatians Written?

1. To defend his apostleship
2. To defend the gospel

“...yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ...”

Galatians 2:16

What Benefits Do We Derive From Its Study?

- 1. Justification by Faith through Grace**
- 2. The Purpose and Function of the Law**
- 3. What is Legalism?**
- 4. What is the Purpose of Christian Freedom?**

I. Foundation of Freedom: Grace

- A. Substitutionary Sacrifice**
- B. Purpose of the Cross**
- C. Source of Grace**
- D. Result of Grace**

This is how the worth of God's glory is magnified: in the death of Jesus.

II. Defending our Freedom

- A. Deserting the Gospel (vs. 6)**
- B. Distorting the Gospel**
- C. Dismissing the trouble-makers**

Conclusion

- There is nothing more important than making sure we understand and are preaching the gospel.
- No one is exempt from the drift and neglect of the gospel.
- It is the tendency of fallen man to want to add his own merit to the gospel of grace.

Conclusion

- We need to forsake self-sufficiency and pride that would try to, in Ferguson's words, "smuggle character into the work of grace" - as if it really could be a foundation of our freedom.

Application Questions

1. Which of the four benefits of the study of Galatians do you anticipate growing the most from? Why?
2. Put in your own words how the Cross of Jesus, and the freedom it purchases, glorifies God.

Application Questions

3. In what ways do you think you are tempted to drift and neglect the preaching of the gospel to yourself daily?