



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Message: The Church of My Dreams

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PRAYER: We give you praise for your goodness. We thank you that you keep us in mind. We thank you for those that preceded us and paved the way for us. Give us that type of visionary foresight so that we might be faithful in this present moment and build a foundation for those that will follow us. We're grateful for what you have done, excited about what you are doing and enthusiastically looking forward to what you will yet do in us, for us, with us and through us. In the Miraculous Name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: If you had to write a resume describing your walk with God, what would it say?

BIBLE STUDY: Read Galatians 1:1-5

Galatia was a region in central Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Paul had planted these churches on his first missionary journey and he loved these people dearly. Paul's heart was aching because false teachers had crept into the churches of Galatia and were corrupting the doctrines of that Paul had taught. These false teachers were attempting to bring the people back under the bondage of the Old Testament law, convincing them that righteousness could be gained by trying to keep the law. The battle lines were clearly drawn and Paul rolls out the cannons of grace and fires one blast after another.

1. Right away, Paul establishes his credentials as a God-called apostle of Jesus Christ. Have you ever felt that you had to prove yourself as a believer? When and where? Paul declared that he was not appointed by humans: where did his authority lie? What about us, can we make that claim? Why or why not? Was Paul's mission different than that of the twelve disciples?
2. This letter is unique, as it is the only letter written by Paul to a *group* of churches. When Paul left these converts, they were happy and rejoicing in the grace of Jesus Christ. Jewish false teachers came in and began to lay down laws that they said the Galatians had to keep if they wanted to be saved and right with God. Since you've been a believer, have you had people attempt to twist your faith? How? What happened? How can each of us avoid that happening in the future?
3. We are living by the grace of God which God offers to all people everywhere by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 5:19. What was God doing in Jesus? What is God trying to do now through us?
4. The apostle Paul breaks out in praise in verse 5 because God's glory and grace will be displayed through us in the age to come. Ephesians 2:6-7. For what in your life should you praise God right now? For what in your future should you praise God right now?

CHALLENGE: Maintain the integrity of your belief in the midst of error.

SERVE: How can you help each other as a group to grow deeper in the Word of God?

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study. Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org under the Resource tab.