

No other gospel can do what the gospel of grace can do. It not only saves us from our sins, but it saves us for a life of freedom and service. In this study of Galatians we are going to be reminded of the gift and the responsibility of being **RESCUED!**

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Rick began by noting that “You cannot fully appreciate how amazing grace is until you are in a place where it is missing.” When did you first realize how amazing grace really is (how were you introduced to grace)?

**2 Salvation is a rescue operation. Read Galatians 1:1-5.** What are some things that stand out to you from Paul’s opening words? Follow up: How would you explain the gospel to someone who asked you today what you believe?

**3** Rick pointed out that in Galatians Paul is going to answer two questions: (1) **Is Jesus’ work enough to save us?** and (2) **Is Jesus’ Spirit enough to change us?** Why are those two questions still so pivotal today? What has your experience been with them?

**4 Read Galatians 1:6-9.** One of the most striking parts of the opening of Galatians is Paul’s tone. How do you think the Galatian believers felt when they read this section? How would you respond if someone was “astonished” that you had drifted in your faith?

**5 GRACE RESCUES US... from false paths to God.** Paul mentioned that they were “turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all.” Why did Paul hate false gospels so much? What makes them so dangerous? Follow up: How can we be prepared to guard against false gospels today?

**6 GRACE RESCUES US... from former ways of life.** Rick said, “Grace was not just something Paul explained; grace was the only way to explain Paul.” **Read Galatians 1:11-24.** What stands out to you regarding Paul’s “previous way of life” and how his encounter with the resurrected Christ changed him? Follow up: *Grace offers everyone a “I used to be, but now I am” testimony that results in “praising God because of me.”* Take some time to have people finish these sentences: I used to be..., but now I am...

**7 GRACE RESCUES US... from futile pursuits of holiness.** *The problem with “grace plus” is that external rules cannot change internal desires.* **Read Galatians 2:1-10** for an illustration of how only the Spirit of God can transform us and not external rules like circumcision (the example of Titus). Why is this truth so important to understand and to live out in our lives today?

**8** There is no “the grace of God plus...” gospel. **Grace is all or nothing.** As you close your time pray **2 Peter 3:18** over the people in your group and remember these words from Rick, “It won’t set you free to do whatever you want to do; it will set you free to become everything God wants you to be. So whether you’re trapped in godless rebellion or joyless religion, know this... you can be **rescued!**”





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**1** Rick began by reminding us that *legalism is the bent of the flesh to think it can help God do what only God can do, but Paul argues strongly in the book of Galatians that all attempts to supplement Christ actually wind up supplanting Christ.* What has been your experience with religious systems based on legalism? How were you rescued from that way of thinking?

**2** **Read Galatians 2:11-21.** What stands out to you regarding Paul confronting Peter (what was at the root of his concern)? Why was it necessary for him to do so instead of simply overlooking the situation? Follow up: What can we learn from how Paul dealt with this matter (what was his primary focus in his response)?

**3** **CONTEXT: Only a fool wants a rule.** Rick pointed out that legalism appeals to our pride. With that in mind, what are the dangers of a “rules-based religion” in relationship to your view of faith and how you relate to others and to God? Follow up: **Read Galatians 3:1-5.** Why does Paul have such a sharp rebuke of the Galatians (what were they in danger of doing)? Why is it foolish for people to think they can build a bridge to God by obeying all of His laws?

**4** **FAITH RESCUES US... from hypocrisy.** **Read Galatians 2:16.** Rick said, “*Whenever keeping rules becomes the focus of faith, the ‘win’ becomes external conformity rather than internal character*

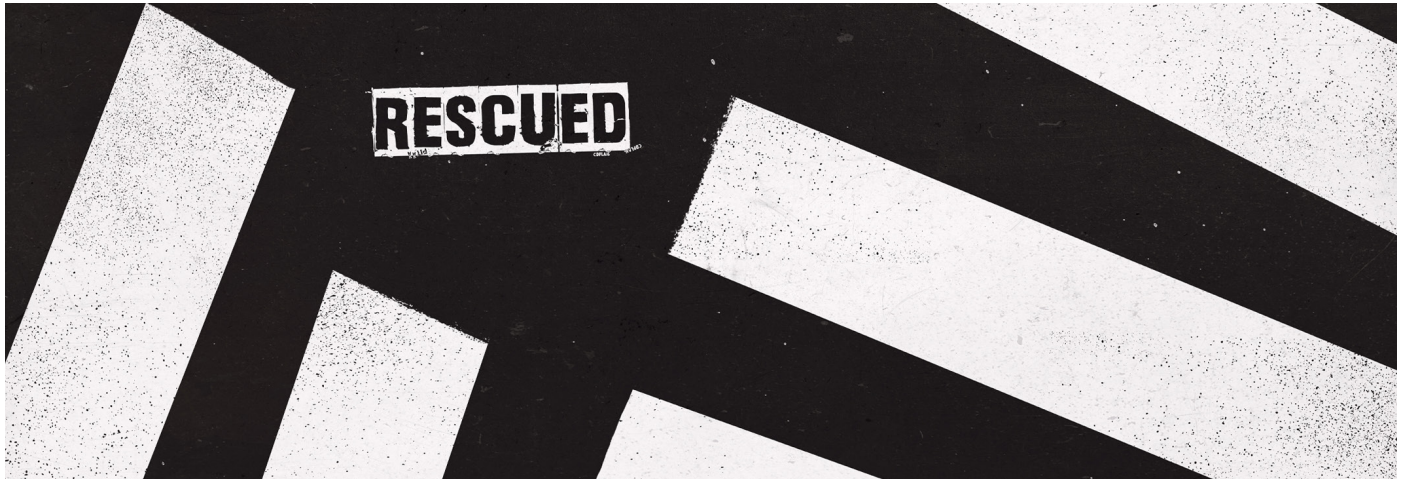
*transformation.*” Why is that distinction so significant? Follow up: Rick also noted that “*Many reject the gospel today not because atheism is so compelling, but because hypocrisy among Christians is so unattractive.*” In what ways should this challenge us personally and as a church family?

**5** **FAITH RESCUES US... from barrenness.** Rick said that “*The gospel is more than forgiveness, it is formation. It is not just pardon for who I used to be; it is power to become who I ought to be.*” **Read Galatians 3:2,5.** What point is Paul making here? How does the story of Abraham illustrate his point (see **Romans 4:20-22**)? Follow up: How does the clear presence of the Holy Spirit give evidence to the right belief system?

**6** **FAITH RESCUES US... from fear.** The fear of not being accepted by God is what makes us susceptible to a “bridge-building” religion. **Read Galatians 3:6-14.** Why is the plan to offer our own righteousness to God never an escape from fear? How does our faith in Jesus rescue us from fear?

**7** Rick closed by reminding us “*God doesn’t want our help building the bridge. God wants to see our confidence in the bridge He has built.*” **The only must is active trust.** What does active trust look like lived out (how is this different than simply affirming ideas in your head)? Share an example of how you’ve seen a rescued life lived out recently.





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**1** Rick began by reminding us that “*The book of Galatians is wrestling with the issue of family—who can rightly consider themselves to be children of God.*” What are some of the benefits of being part of the family of God? Follow up: **Read John 1:12.** Why is belief in Jesus a necessary requirement for intimacy with the Father?

**2** **CONTEXT: Immature children obey because of law. Read Galatians 3:15-18.** *Paul’s critics would agree that God made a promise to Abraham, but that through Moses He added conditions to that promise.* Why is that view incorrect and how does it impact a person’s relationship with God? Follow up: In what ways is wanting to stay under the law a sign of spiritual infancy?

**3** **Read Galatians 3:19-25.** Paul acknowledges the usefulness of the law for the purpose for which it was given. The law served as a *fence* (3:23) and as a *mirror* (3:19). What is significant about the role of each of these purposes of the law? Follow up: Why is it important to realize that nothing we can do can place us in the family of God?

**4** **“AND NOW...” We are accepted through Christ. Read Romans 8:3-4.** Rick reminded us “*that we could not become legal heirs until the legal demands of the law were satisfied.*” How does God’s intervention through Christ remind us that even though grace is free it wasn’t cheap? How has that impacted your relationship with your

Father? Follow up: **Read Galatians 3:26-29.** What stands out to you the most from these verses? How is baptism an expression of a person’s faith and not simply an addition to faith?

**5** **“AND NOW...” We are adopted by God.** Rick noted that “*Jesus teaches us to view God as our Father because Jesus came on a mission to get us into the family.*” **Read Galatians 4:1-5.** How is the process of having a child biologically different from the process of adopting a child? How is it similar? Follow up: With that in mind, how do you feel about being an adopted child of God (see **Ephesians 1:4-5**)?

**6** **“AND NOW...” We are anointed with the Spirit.** *The Holy Spirit is God’s announcement to the spiritual world that we belong to Him.* **Read Galatians 4:6.** How does knowing and experiencing this truth change how you live? Follow up: How does the Spirit bolster our faith in the promises of God when life gets hard (see **Romans 8:23**)?

**7** **CONCLUSION: Mature children obey because of love.** Rick closed by saying “*I don’t obey God because I’m afraid of being punished. I obey because I delight in my Dad.*” How has that perspective impacted your relationship with the Father? Follow up: What is one thing you can do this week to remind yourself of your true identity?





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**1** Rick began by reminding us that “Freedom is a special gift that should only be surrendered for the good of others. More often the case is that what’s good for others is to be encouraged to not surrender their freedom.” Why is this true (see **Galatians 5:1**)? Share an example of a time someone surrendered their freedom for the good of others and/or a time when someone should not have surrendered their freedom.

**2 BEWARE! We must remain vigilant, because freedom drifts. Read Galatians 4:8-20.** How had the Galatians drifted back into slavery? Follow up: What are some ways we are tempted to do the same?

**3 Read Galatians 4:21-31.** Paul shares this story as a reminder of “that time when Abraham and Sarah figured ‘God needs our help’ with regard to fulfilling the promise.” Share an example of a time when you took matters into your own hands because you thought God needed your help. How did that turn out? Follow up: Rick pointed out that “Ishmael represents all attempts to reach God through what we can do instead of through trusting in what God will do.” Why is this type of religion so dangerous?

**4 OUR RESCUE SETS US... free from the collateral damage of rule-based religion. Read Galatians 5:1-15.** “Ishmael religion” can produce results, but it has toxic side-effects. Rick noted that some of the negative consequences of this type of religion

include joylessness (**Galatians 4:15**) pride (**Galatians 6:13**) and disharmony (**Galatians 5:15**). In what ways have you seen this played out in your own life or in the family of God? Follow up: How does the gospel rescue us from this type of religion?

**5 OUR RESCUE SETS US... free to be formed into the image of Christ through the Holy Spirit.** Followers of Jesus can grow in their capacity to be like Jesus but it is a supernatural birth, not a natural one (see **Galatians 4:19** and **5:5**). What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us become more like Jesus? Follow up: Rick said that this offers us great comfort at two levels, (1) *God does not need potential from you to work miracles in you* and (2) *Our present struggle with sin is not a sign that our inheritance is in jeopardy*. How does this bring comfort to you personally (see **Philippians 1:6**)?

**6 OUR RESCUE SETS US... free for a life of humble, selfless love.** Being liberated from a religion of servitude actually enables us to better serve. **Read Galatians 5:6.** How does the freedom you have in Christ motivate you to serve others in love? What are some practical ways we can do so this week?

**7 CONCLUSION: The cross anchors.** Rick closed by reminding us to “Hold on to the cross. It won’t just set you free...it will keep you free.” **Read Galatians 6:24.** Share one way this lesson has encouraged you to stand firm and not drift from freedom in Christ.





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**1** Rick began by reminding us that “*There is something about the bent of human nature—the Bible calls it ‘the flesh’—that requires laws and punishments before it will do what it ought to do.*” Why is that true and how does it make “rules-based religion” appealing? Follow up: **Read Galatians 5:16-26.** As you take in this whole passage, what are 2-3 things that stand out to you?

**2** **“WALK BY...” Christlikeness is a pursuit.** What does the word *pursuit* imply and how is that encouraging to you? Follow up: *We can all affirm that our baptisms did not drown that part of us that still wants to sin.* If we are made alive by the Spirit, why do we still struggle with sin (see **1 Peter 2:11**)? How has that been true for you recently?

**3** What is the problem with a rules-based approach to becoming more like Jesus (see **Galatians 3:3**)? Why does behavior modification not lead to spiritual transformation? Follow up: Rick said, “*Only one person ever lived righteously, and I must welcome his presence inside me.*” **Read Galatians 2:20.** How does that verse encourage you?

**4** **“LED BY...” Believe in the work of Christ.** Becoming like Jesus begins by trusting in Jesus. Why is trust essential? In what areas of your life do you sometimes struggle to believe in the work of Christ? Follow up: Rick said, “*The first thing we do in a battle with sin is believe it is possible to be free from its*

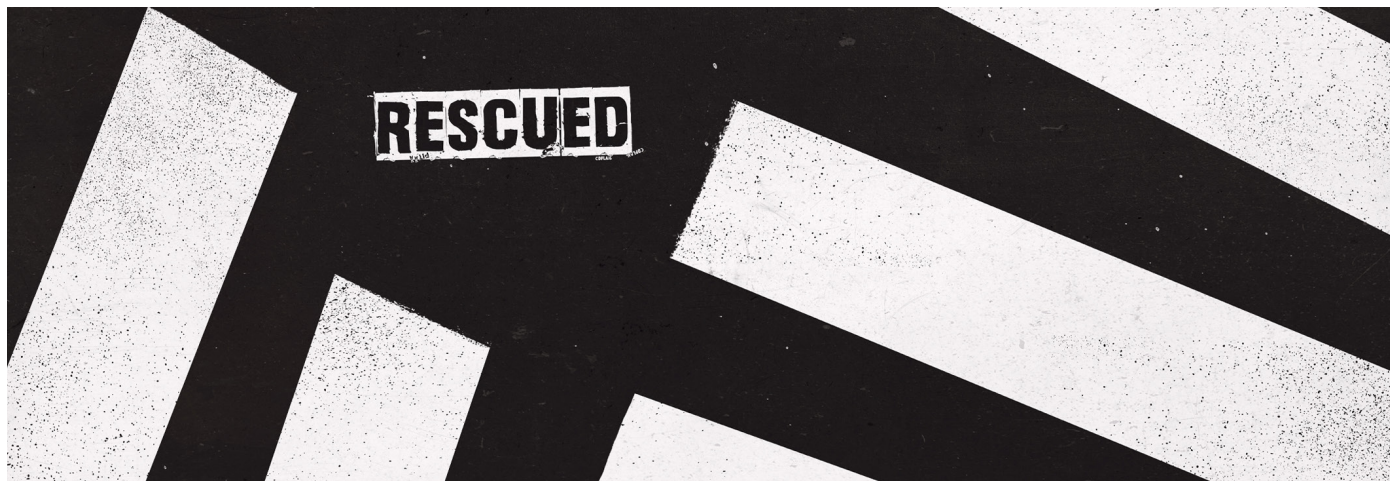
*power because of the work of Christ.*” With that in mind, in what ways does the gospel not only forgive you but form you (see **Romans 8:3-4** and **Ezekiel 36:26-27**)?

**5** **“LED BY...” And be led by the Spirit of Christ.** Rick pointed out that *being led by the Spirit is not like a pace car you must strive to keep up with, but a locomotive that is leading us in the direction of Christ-likeness.* Why is that distinction so important? **Read Galatians 5:16-18.** How is a Christian empowered to live by the Spirit? Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit for guidance when facing a struggle? If so, how did that help? Follow up: **Read Romans 8:5-9.** Why is it so important to think about what you think about?

**6** **“LED BY...” To become who you are in Christ.** *The fruit of the Spirit is visible evidences of the presence of Christ in someone’s life.* **Read Galatians 5:22-25.** Where do you most obviously see the fruit of the Spirit in your life? Where do you desire to see more evidence of the presence of Christ in your life?

**7** **“KEEP IN STEP...” Christlikeness is a promise.** Rick closed by reminding us, “*Nothing about the ministry of the Spirit needs to be restrained. The Holy Spirit will not make us weird; the Holy Spirit will make us more like Jesus.*” **Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.** Share one way this lesson has encouraged you to become more like Christ.





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**1** Check in with each other. How is everyone doing? How can we be praying for each other and carrying each other's burdens?

**2** **Read Galatians 6:1-10.** Share some "good news" stories with each other. What good deeds have you witnessed, received or been able to do for others?

**3** Christians are called to **bless everyone every chance we get.** Brainstorm as a group about opportunities to bless others in a season with social obstacles. Have someone write them down and see if there's one you can do as a group.

**4** Paul mentions growing weary and tired multiple times. Process as a group through these three questions: *What has the pandemic taken away? (Grief) What has the pandemic not changed? (Awareness) What has the pandemic given me? (Blessing)*

**5** **Read Galatians 6:11-18.** Paul writes with his own hand to emphasize that **Jesus + Nothing = Everything.** Why does Jesus make all the difference? What hope is Jesus giving you in this season?

