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**Galatians 5:2-12**

***Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor***

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In Galatians 5:2-12, Paul led the Gentile believers in Galatia to a crossroads. They cannot continue in the Gospel that he preached, while adding in the observance of good works that the false teachers taught. They must choose between the true gospel and the false teaching that they now encountered. Along the way, Paul gives us three markers to distinguish between true and false.

1. The marker of consequences (5:1-4)
2. The marker of identity (5:5-6)

Our future identity – declared righteous at God’s judgment (5:6)

Our current identity – Loving and serving others as evidence of our faith in Christ (5:5)

1. The marker of obstacles (5:7-12)

False teaching that threatens to hinder believers in Jesus Christ (5:7-10)

The offense of the true gospel (5:11)

**Questions to Consider**

1. How would you describe the freedom that you have as a believer in Jesus Christ? From what have you been set free?

1. The false teachers in Galatia zeroed in on the rite of circumcision. What would be some equivalent practices/observances? i.e. What things do people say and/or do that are human efforts to try to earn justification before God?
2. According to Galatians 5:2-4, why do all human efforts to earn justification fall short (cf. James 2:10)?
3. Can you think of times this past week when you did not *feel* righteous? How does Galatians 5:5 speak truth to your feelings?
4. In Galatians 5:6, what does it mean by “faith working through love”? In what tangible ways is Christlike love showing up as an evidence of your faith in Christ?
5. How would you answer someone who says that Galatians teaches that faith in Christ is a license to sin? i.e. Just believe in Jesus and you can live however you please?
6. What are some popular religious teachings today that may describe themselves as Christian, but that may also steer people away from sound doctrine?
7. In what ways is the Gospel of Jesus Christ offensive to unbelievers? Does fear of offense keep you from proclaiming that gospel?

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***Next Week’s Sermon Text: Galatians 5:13-24***