

## **“Jesus + Nothing = Everything”**

*Galatians- week #1*

Christ give you grace and peace. 4 Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. 5 All glory to God forever and ever! Amen. 6 I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News 7 but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. 8 Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. 9 I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

2 Corinthians 6:18 ESV - 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV - 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

3.  
Romans 8:38 NLT - 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow-- not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.1

1 John 4:16 ESV - 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV - 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond you're a the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Philippians 4:13 ESV - 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

### **INTRODUCTION**

This summer, while some of us are diving into the pool, at New Life we will be diving into the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Galatians is addressing a problem that the new believers in Galatia were grappling with: What rules must I follow, what things must I do, what more is needed, beyond faith in Jesus, so that I can measure up? The Good News is that there is nothing more needed. Many of us still need to be reminded of this important truth, Jesus + nothing = everything!

### **Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)**

If you were given 100 million dollars what would you do with it?

### **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

#### **Adding to the Good News**

##### **1. Read Ephesians 2:8-9**

Paul had told the Galatians all about the Good News of Jesus. Unfortunately, the Galatians (most of whom were previously Gentiles) were being told by the Jewish converts to the faith that circumcision was required to enjoy the full privileges of Christianity. How did Paul summarize the Good News when he explained it to the Ephesians in Eph. 2:8-9? The bottom line is that salvation isn't based on anything we do. God's grace alone saves us.

Although we might not be convinced that circumcision is necessary, what are some "good works" we might do to try to be more acceptable to God? These "works" may look good, but if done with wrong motives they gain us nothing.

#### **Remembering to the Basics**

##### **2. Read Galatians 1:1-9; 2 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Paul reminded the Galatians of some of the basics of faith: who God is, what He has done for us, and who we are in Christ. How does Paul refer to God in verses 1, 3 and 4? Our earthly fathers may fall short of

perfection, but our Heavenly Father doesn't. What has God done for us according to verses 4 and 6?

What are some things that make it difficult for us to see ourselves as God's children, victorious and changed? The truth is once you have placed your faith in Jesus nothing can disqualify you from being God's child.

**3. Read Romans 8:38, 1 John 4:16; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13**

At the heart of the Good News is the fact that Jesus alone is enough. While most of us can agree with that statement, the way we live doesn't always reflect it. Sometimes other "gods" creep into our lives and replace Him. If the driving force in your life is anything else (success, pleasure, family) you will undermine the place of prominence Jesus deserves. Why do you think we pursue those other things?

God's word is the answer to every lie and doubt thrown our way. Jesus used it to oppose Satan's lies during his temptation in the wilderness, and it's still the most powerful weapon we have. When doubts or lies tell you that you are hopeless, useless, or not good enough, how would the following scripture counter that?

Romans 8:38 and 1 John 4:16  
1 Corinthians 10:13  
Philippians 4:13

What other truths can you point to that help you to stand firm in your faith? If there is anyone in the group struggling with doubts, share a time of prayer together and search the scripture for truth that counters their doubts.

**WRAP-UP**

Paul had given the Galatians the Good News that Jesus was all they needed for salvation, but others had come to them claiming that they needed more. Sometimes we are also convinced that we must have to do something to be worthy or to measure up. But when we think we need "Jesus and ..." we are headed down the wrong path. Paul reminded the Galatians that God is their loving Father, and His grace through the sacrifice of Jesus is what saved them. Despite the lies and

doubts that challenge our faith, the truth is we are God's children, loved and victorious in Him and nothing else but faith in Jesus is needed.

**Memory Verse**

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*  
*Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV*

**PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Challenge- Ask God to reveal to where seeds of doubt have been sown and search the scripture for truth that counters those lies.*

**Bible Verses**

- 1.**  
Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- 2.**  
Galatians 1:1-9 NLT - 1 This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. 2 All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia. 3 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus