

## *Finally Free* Galatians 1:1-5

“If you believe what you like in the gospel, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.”

Augustine

### I. The Author

## II. The Audience

## III. The Occasion

### **Think It Through**

Paul's background as a Pharisee gave him firsthand insights into the requirements of the law. Understanding the freedom of being saved by grace and not by works drove him to passionately declare that same freedom to others. What about your freedom in Christ are you thankful for? Are there people that you know who are trying to work their way to God? How can you help bring the gospel of grace to them?

Paul displays care and affection for the various local churches that he planted and partnered with. What are you thankful for in the local church? How have you been blessed by gathering together with the saints? How can you intentionally encourage others this week as a part of that local body?

The idea of authority is going to be a frequent topic in the first couple of chapters of Galatians. Paul has some corrections to make, and he uses his role as an apostle to call the people to action. What are the various authorities that God has placed in our lives? How do we recognize biblical authority? How does the role of scripture as an authority impact our lives? Are there authorities that you struggle to submit to? How can the group be praying for you and encouraging you in this area?

Freedom is a central theme in Galatians. Freedom is also going to be at the forefront of our culture as we enter into an election year. How does Christian freedom differ from the cultural concept of freedom? What have we been freed from? What have we been freed to do? Are there ways that you take your Christian liberty for granted? Are there areas in your life where you are using your freedom to pursue things that might hinder your walk or discourage the walk of others?

## **For Families**

Tell your kids the gospel. Even if they have heard it over and over, make sure that they have clarity. Make sure that YOU have clarity on what the gospel is and is not. Spend time thanking God that he made a way for sinners to be restored to right relationship with him through the work of Christ on the cross.