

#### PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. 7 You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough. 10 I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you will bear his judgment, whoever he is. 11 But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. 12 I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves. 13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.







### REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

•	What's one wa	y someone h	nas shown	you kinc	lness recently	?
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• Describe a moment or time in your life when you felt truly "free".

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

# **GROW IN THE WORD**

- **01.** Paul emphasized freedom in Christ from the burden of the Law. He warned the Galatians that turning back to the Law would mean an obligation to obey every regulation it contained. He reiterated the importance of faith expressing itself in love (v. 1-6).
  - What are the consequences Paul outlined for those who chose to return to keeping the Law? Did Paul suggest that one consequence is the loss of a believer's salvation? See also Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:35-39; 1 John 5:11-13.

# **GROW IN THE WORD**

Why do you think Paul used such severe language to rebuke the Galatians (e.g. "severed from Christ", "fallen from grace")?
How does "faith working through love" stand in contrast to keeping the Law through circumcision?
O2. Paul encouraged the Galatians to return to the truth, questioning the source of the false teaching that caused them to stray. Paul clarified his teaching on circumcision and called on the Galatians to use their freedom, not to satisfy their sinful desires, but to love one another (v. 7-15).
• Paul suggested that legalism can result in "biting and devouring one another". How have you seen that play out in your community? How is hyperfocus on external works and characteristics detrimental to life in community?

## **GROW IN THE WORD**

•	n what ways or areas of your life might you be more prone to gain approval through works
	nd merit? How can you apply Paul's teaching to safeguard against it?

• How can you identify when you're using freedom in a way that serves yourself rather than others? What helps keep you focused on serving in love?

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### 2025 SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

Arizona | Rwanda | Peru

Missions are an integral part of who we are as a church and we would love for you to join one of our short-term teams this coming year! You can learn more about the ministry opportunities with our teams, begin the application process, and find deadlines on our website.

#### THE GATHERING

December 3 | 7 pm | Fellowship Hall

Ladies, mark your calendars and join us for an uplifting evening focused on the Advent season. We'll explore the theme of waiting for the Lord's return with active anticipation. Discover how you can be part of God's mission as we prepare our hearts and engage in His work during this special time of year. Register online or in the app.