



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 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.

