



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 “Freedom is a special gift that should only be surrendered for the good of others. More often the case is that what’s good for others is to be encouraged to not surrender their freedom.” Why is this true (see **Galatians 5:1**)? Share an example of a time someone surrendered their freedom for the good of others and/or a time when someone should not have surrendered their freedom.

2 BEWARE! We must remain vigilant, because freedom drifts. Read Galatians 4:8-20. How had the Galatians drifted back into slavery? Follow up: What are some ways we are tempted to do the same?

3 Read Galatians 4:21-31. Paul shares this story as a reminder of “that time when Abraham and Sarah figured ‘God needs our help’ with regard to fulfilling the promise.” Share an example of a time when you took matters into your own hands because you thought God needed your help. How did that turn out? Follow up: Rick pointed out that “Ishmael represents all attempts to reach God through what we can do instead of through trusting in what God will do.” Why is this type of religion so dangerous?

4 OUR RESCUE SETS US... free from the collateral damage of rule-based religion. Read Galatians 5:1-15. “Ishmael religion” can produce results, but it has toxic side-effects. Rick noted that some of the negative consequences of this type of religion

include joylessness (**Galatians 4:15**) pride (**Galatians 6:13**) and disharmony (**Galatians 5:15**). In what ways have you seen this played out in your own life or in the family of God? Follow up: How does the gospel rescue us from this type of religion?

5 OUR RESCUE SETS US... free to be formed into the image of Christ through the Holy Spirit. Followers of Jesus can grow in their capacity to be like Jesus but it is a supernatural birth, not a natural one (see **Galatians 4:19** and **5:5**). What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us become more like Jesus? Follow up: Rick said that this offers us great comfort at two levels, (1) *God does not need potential from you to work miracles in you* and (2) *Our present struggle with sin is not a sign that our inheritance is in jeopardy*. How does this bring comfort to you personally (see **Philippians 1:6**)?

6 OUR RESCUE SETS US... free for a life of humble, selfless love. Being liberated from a religion of servitude actually enables us to better serve. **Read Galatians 5:6.** How does the freedom you have in Christ motivate you to serve others in love? What are some practical ways we can do so this week?

7 CONCLUSION: The cross anchors. Rick closed by reminding us to “Hold on to the cross. It won’t just set you free...it will keep you free.” **Read Galatians 6:24.** Share one way this lesson has encouraged you to stand firm and not drift from freedom in Christ.

