

January 13, 2019
Galatians 5:2-12

Christ plus Nothing

The Incompatibility of Grace and Human Effort

Circumcision is not merely cosmetic; it is theological! v. 2

Those who are circumcised must follow the entire law v. 3
(Galatians 3:10; James 2:10)

Grace and works are incompatible v. 4
*(Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:20; Romans 7:2, 6; Galatians 1:8-9;
Romans 11:6)*

True believers receive righteousness by faith v. 5
(Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 3:2-3)

Circumcision has no value – only faith working through love v. 6

The Consequences of both Grace and Human Effort

Who hindered you? v. 7

This is NOT from God! v. 8

A little false teaching contaminates the church. v. 9

God will sort them out. v. 10

Concluding thoughts vv. 11-12

Paul didn't preach circumcision v.11

The False teachers should "cut themselves off"! v.12

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do you think Paul uses such strong and even somewhat crude language to speak about those who were distorting the Gospel? What is the issue really?
2. What should our response be when confronted with false teaching? How might this passage model a response for us?
3. Why is it so important to stick to the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ apart from all human effort?
4. Why is any attempt to become right with God through human means (following rules, the Law, etc.) so offensive to God?
5. If there is only one way of salvation (through faith in Christ) why are so many Christians reluctant to share it with others? How might we remedy this situation?