

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## Galatians 5:7-15

### Lesson 9

This section of Galatians begins with the phrase *you ran well*, speaking of lives once lived according to the gospel, but now distracted. Paul often used the image of a race. Will you run a *hindered* race or will you run in the *liberty* in which you were called? Paul takes the opportunity to remind believers of the proper use of our *liberty* which will one day grant us the glorious hearing of the words from our Savior, *You ran well!* The choice is ours.

#### DAY ONE: Read Galatians 5:7-15

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. Galatians 5:7-15 is one section/paragraph division. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *God (v. 8), Jesus (v. 9), law, flesh, and love*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Galatians 5:7-15.

3. Paul used the contrasting term *but* three times in this section. Mark each reference on your Observation Worksheets. Choose one and record what is being contrasted.

4. Choose one of the key words from question 2 and record, by making a list, what the text reveals.

## DAY TWO: Read Galatians 5:7-9

1. Even though the Galatians *ran well*, something terrible had happened to their spiritual life. What did Paul ask them in Galatians 5:7?

- a. The Christian life is frequently depicted in the Bible as a race. What do the following verses say about this?

1 Corinthians 9:24

Hebrews 12:1,2

- 1.) In what way do these verses speak to you?

- b. Review your life since you became a Christian. Possibly this could have been said about you at one time, or you know of a believer who *ran well*, but is not doing *well* now. List a few things that can pull a believer off course.

- c. Consider the idea of running in a race. What are some words or phrases that describe the behavior and character of an athlete who runs well?

- 1.) What are some words or phrases that describe an athlete who runs poorly?

2. False teachers who had infiltrated the church were *hindering* with *this persuasion*. What did Paul say about this in Galatians 5:8?

- a. The word *persuasion* carries the idea of “causing someone to do something by reasoning, urging, or inducement”. What illustration did Paul use in Galatians 5:9 to describe the false teachers and expose the effect of their activity?

- b. Paul was concerned about the congregation pastored by Timothy. He did not want any false teachings *spreading like cancer*. Read 2 Timothy 2:14-17 and record the instructions Timothy was to *remind* and *charge* people.

- 1.) How would adhering to these instructions prevent a believer from falling prey to straying from the truth?

### **DAY THREE: Read Galatians 5:10-12**

1. Observe the following version of Galatians 5:10 NLT. *I am trusting the Lord to bring you back to believing as I do about these things. God will judge that person, whoever it is, who has been troubling and confusing you.* What do you see?
2. Apparently Paul had been misrepresented by others as preaching circumcision. How does he refute this accusation in Galatians 5:11?
  - a. What did Paul say about the *message of the cross* in 1 Corinthians 1:18?
    - 1.) In what ways did you find the *message of the cross* to be *foolish* before you became a believer?
      - a.) In what ways do you see the thoughts you had as *foolish* now?
3. Paul loved these believers with a great intensity and was fiercely protective of them. He wanted an end to the evils of those who were causing trouble. How does Galatians 5:12 communicate his zeal for the believers' welfare?

## DAY FOUR: Read Galatians 5:13a,b

1. *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh,* Galatians 5:13a,b. What word is used twice in this verse?

a. Record the two other verses in Galatians that use the word *liberty* (2:4, 5:1) underlining what the *false brethren* came to do and the action the believer is to take.

1.) What do these 2 verses say to you about *liberty*?

2. Believers have been called to *liberty*. How would you describe this *liberty*?

3. What are the restrictions on the Christian's *liberty* according to Galatians 5:13?

a. The phrase *only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh* is translated in the NIV as *do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature*. How do the following verses expand your understanding of the application of this principle?

1 Corinthians 8:9

1 Peter 2:16

1.) Choose one of these verses and explain it as you would to a new believer.

## DAY FIVE: Read Galatians 5:13c-15

1. Rather than use our *liberty as an opportunity for the flesh*, what is the high purpose of our *calling to liberty*?
  - a. In what way is *serving one another in love* an expression of *liberty*?
  - b. Read 1 John 3:16-19. Explain what John says about *loving the brethren*.
2. Thoughtfully write the words of Galatians 5:14.
  - a. How does *love* fulfill the *whole law*?
  - b. Using a few words or phrases, describe this kind of *love*.
3. Share a time when you experienced a believer *serving* you through *love*?
  - a. How did that action draw you to Jesus?
4. What is the warning of Galatians 5:15?
  - a. Notice the phrase *lest you be consumed by one another*. Contrast the destructive result of the lack of love with the beautiful results when we *love one another* as viewed in Ephesians 4:2,3,16. Summarize what you observe.
  - b. What are some common effects of *backbiting* in the church?

## DAY SIX: Review Galatians 5:7-15

1. *You ran well* Galatians 5:7a. One day it will bring joy to our hearts to hear those words from the Lord. Yet, used in the past tense today, is a sad thought. What can you do insure the first and prevent the latter?
2. What did you learn about the danger of *leaven* to the spiritual life of an individual believer or to the whole church?
  - a. How does *a little leaven leaven the whole lump* or a bad apple spoil the barrel?
3. How do some Christians abuse their *liberty* in Christ?
  - a. What is wrong with this?
4. Share a way this lesson has challenged or encouraged you.

*And the second, like it, is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

*There is no other commandment greater than these.*

*- Mark 12:31*