

DISCUSSION IDEAS
SETTING THE STAGE

Galatians 1:1-7

September 11th, 2016

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHOLE-BIBLE CONTEXT.**

We talk about paying attention to the context of a passage.

Consider the "context" of the Apostle Paul's introductory words in his various letters. Are they similar, or is there a significant difference in some?

Quickly look at the following passages:

Rom.1:1-7

1 Cor.1:1-9

2 Cor.1:1-2

Eph.1:1-2

Phil.1:1-11

Col.1:1-8

1 Thess.1:1-10

2 Thess.1:1-4

What is the tone of these greetings?

Now read Galatians 1:1-8. Do you see any difference?

Look again at verses 6-8. Does Paul seem happy with these believers?

What is the issue?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHY WAS A DISTORTED GOSPEL SO DEVASTATING?**

What was the Good News that Paul and Barnabas brought to these folks in Galatia? Look at Acts 13:38-39, and also 1 Cor. 15:3-4.

Think about the mix of Gentiles and Jews who now had fellowship in Christ.

How must that have felt for the previously separatist Jews?

How about for the formerly excluded Gentiles?

Knowing that these new believers were being taught a distortion based on "works of the Law", how must that have affected their fellowship? (See verses 6-7.)

How must that have influenced their trust in the work of Jesus?

How are similar "legalistic" views in the church today detrimental to believers?

Can a person be disobedient to even a direct command of Jesus and still be saved?

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What is the difference between trusting (believing) God for salvation, and growing in obedience to Him?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: HOW DO THE IDEAS OF COMMUNITY AND DISCIPLESHIP FIT INTO YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE?**

What is our rock solid foundation when confusing teachings show up?

How well do I need to know the Word?

How can I get help if I find some teachings confusing but they are claimed to be scriptural?

Does God intend us to "soldier on" by ourselves?

What is the value of making a determination to be in a regular discipling or sharing/Bible discussion relationship with one other person?

Do you WANT to be challenged?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION: AT HOME THIS WEEK:**

Read through and meditate on Galatians 5:13 to 6:10.

Make yourself a few notes on what important teaching is taught here.

Be thinking about one person you can invite and pursue for fellowship and to challenge each other to grow in Christ.

Be open to God's leading you to help a weaker fellow believer through encouragement and discussion of the Word.

(Do you have to be some kind of expert to do this?)

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Continue to pray for the Pearsons as they continue to find various ways to serve Jesus.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoidstads. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

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Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.