

## Getting Started

As we begin a new sermon series this week, talk about listening to sermons. How do you listen well to a sermon? What makes a "good" sermon for you?

### Word

Read aloud Galatians 1:1-9

1. Take a moment to find Galatia on a map in the back of your Bible. Notice that it is a region not a city. Paul usually wrote to a church in a city, e.g., Ephesus, Corinth, Rome, Philippi. This letter was circulated to several churches in the region of Galatia (see 1:2). The people in these churches were predominantly Gentiles. In the first century, Paul was a missionary to Gentiles across the Roman Empire.
2. Why do you suppose Paul begins this letter, like he does most of his letters, with the phrase, "Paul an apostle"? What is an *apostle*?
3. Compare the opening verses of Galatians with the opening of some other letters of Paul. For example, look at Philippians 1:1-8 and Colossians 1:1-8. What is similar in these other letters to the opening of Galatians? What is different? What does the difference tell you about what follows in Galatians?
4. Read again 1:3-5. Assuming you have different translations of the passage, read the verses in at least three translations. In the NRSV, the word *free* is used in v.4. *Freedom* is a major theme in Galatians as we will see in the coming weeks. What kind of freedom is Paul referencing here?
5. Look at 1:6-9. Without reading ahead in Galatians just yet, what does this paragraph tell you about Paul's purpose in writing the letter? Notice his passion and urgency. What would you say is his main concern in this paragraph? Talk about times in your own lives when you have been passionate and urgent about an issue. What is that like?

### Share

Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

### Prayer

Pray for each other in sentence prayers.

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October 8, 2017

*Galatians: Paul's Letter of Freedom*

Galatians 1:1-9

## Sermon Notes

1. What do you learn this morning about Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia?
2. Why did Paul write this letter?
3. What is the *gospel* and why is Paul so concerned about it?

People you want to pray for:

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