

**FOOD TIME:** (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

**MEETING TIME:** (45 minutes)

As we enter into the Pauline epistles, we go into such a powerful one in Paul's letter to the Galatians. It starts with an opening that calls to the actions of the church during that time and how they are breaking away from the teachings that Paul gave that helped establish the church. We see Paul start the chapter by holding them accountable to the one true gospel. As we go into discussion this week, think about how this message to the early church in Galatia and how that message still relates to us today.

### **READ Galatians 1:1-10**

**1** Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), **2** and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: **3** Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, **4** who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **5** to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. **6** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, **7** which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel than what you have received, let him be accursed. **10** For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

### **FACILITATE Discussion Questions**

1. Even in a message of rebuke, Paul starts his letter offering grace and peace, why?
2. How can we know someone is perverting the gospel?
3. What can we do to help each other when it feels like we are being persuaded away from the gospel?
4. In a dark world that is constantly going against what God says, what can we do as believers?
5. How can we be more like Paul and show grace especially when someone hurts us?

**PRAY-** Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

**APPLICATION-** Even though this chapter starts with a rebuke, there is still encouragement. It starts with the love that God has for us. Even though we will make mistakes and will fall flat on our face, we will still have his grace and mercy and love. Knowing that we have God's unconditional love in everything, we are called to walk boldly to stand up for the gospel. We do that by our words, our character, and our actions. How we live for Him on a daily basis helps lead us to a life that honors and glorifies His name. We can also lean on one another. We are all blessed with the Spirit who will help us discern if someone is speaking the truth or is using it to get something out of it. If we are all together in that battle against the things that try and pervert God's word, we can always get through those difficult situations. As a group think about areas where this is happening today and where we can stand boldly in His name as a body of believers.