

# WUSBC NEWSLETTER

For the CROSS | the CROWN | and the COVENANT

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

Please mail your giving to:

Lana Chandler  
17759 St Rt 247  
Seaman, OH 45679

## STATISTICS FOR APRIL 19, 2020

Worship Attendance:

10 in person

approx. 76 Facebook

approx. 19 YouTube

Budget Offering: \$1,370.00

Building: \$100.00

Missions: \$50.00

Smiths (missionaries to  
Zambia, Africa): \$210.00

## BIRTHDAYS

Jeannie Young, May 5th

## Pastor's Note:

I trust this letter finds you and your family well. I know things have been a little crazy for our family. Many of you have asked how my week off was working on the house. It was a very busy and productive week. However, as with every home project, I had more planned than I was able to complete. I am very thankful for what was accomplished. After several years working on this house, it is so exciting to see the end in sight.

This week has also been very busy and more stressful than usual due to the ever changing world of coronavirus. Brenda started working in the COVID ICU at the hospital. We continue to pray for her and her co-workers' safety and stress levels. Brenda and I would like to express a heartfelt thanks to each of you who have expressed your concern and prayers for her. Thank you so much! That is a true encouragement.

This week also brought about changes and updates regarding the government's mandates and recommendations regarding the coronavirus. Starting in May they are now permitting groups of ten people to start gathering together. With this I have spent a great deal of time on the phone with other pastors, the leadership of WUSBC, and reading reports and "Guidelines for Re-Engaging in Public Religious Gatherings." (add footnote)

### *What's changing at WUSBC?*

Starting this Sunday, May 3rd, we're going to begin opening the services to live audiences; however, in order to maintain social distancing, we need to adhere to the recommendation of groups of ten people. After receiving feedback from the church family, I estimate we can accommodate these recommendations by starting two morning services, one at 9:45 and one at 11:00. There will be no Sunday school classes and there will be no children services (nursery or Children's Church). The 9:45 service will be recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube. The 9:45 service will be for the "older" crowd, those without children. The 11:00 service will be for families with children.

I have spoken to the group leaders of the Ladies' Small Group Bible Studies and the Men's Small Group Bible Studies and if the group would like to resume meeting they are welcome to meet at



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brenda Huskey, Emily Gift, Eric Hall, Heather Valasek, Jason Buda, Stacy Fryman, and other healthcare workers
- Our church family
- Our nation

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- Romans 15:5-6

the church. If you need anything from me, please let me know and I'll get it to you.

### *WUSBC Schedule:*

#### *Sunday:*

- No Sunday school classes - A lesson will still be available via YouTube.
- 9:45am - Church Service for those without kids (available on-line)
- 11:00am - Church Service for those with kids

#### *Midweek:*

- Small Groups - meeting depending on the groups decision
- No Wednesday evening service

### *WUSBC Precautions:*

- Multiple services to help with social distancing
- No Sunday school
- No children's ministries
- No shaking hands
- Families sit together, with space between families
- As soon as service is over please go outside for fellowship
- Offering plates will not be passed. Offering plates will be available at the back of the auditorium.
- A mask is not required, but is encouraged
- Service will still be available via internet for those uncomfortable attending
- Only the restrooms at the back of the auditorium will be available for use.
- The educational wing/fellowship hall will be closed on Sunday
- Everything will be disinfected each week

Thanks for your prayers and consideration for your brothers and sisters in Christ as we continue to navigate this unique situation. I know some are planning to stay home, and I know some that are coming. Please respect and pray for each other. As a church we must remain united and loving toward each other, even in the midst of differing opinions. "Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother" (Romans 14:13).

In His grace,

Pastor Heath Huskey

# LIBERTY IN CHRIST

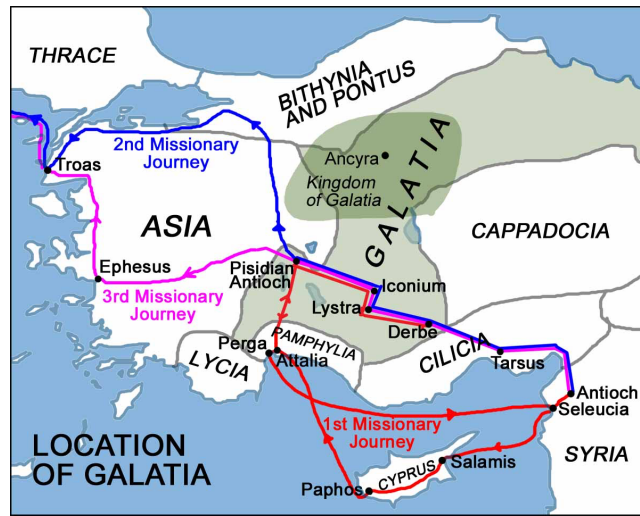
[Galatians 1:1-9]

## The Context

This is the only letter that Paul did not address to a specific church. Galatia was not a city, as you can see from the map, but rather a region in central Asia Minor inhabited by a celtic people who had migrated there from Gaul in the third century B.C. They had been conquered by the Romans around 198 B.C. and were allowed to maintain some independence until 25 B.C. when the entire area became a Roman province. At this point, the term Galatia applied to various peoples from other ethnic backgrounds besides Celtic.

## Keys to the Text

The major key to this text is understanding the difference between law and grace. The main theme is justification by faith without the works of the flesh. Furthermore, we are not only saved by grace but we are also kept by it. The entire letter extols our liberty in Christ but not to the extent we use it as an occasion to sin! Legalism had crept back into the churches in Galatia and Paul is battling this false doctrine. Legalism can neither save a sinner nor perfect a saint...in any of its varied forms!



## The Truth about Grace

When we begin to look at Galatians, something different should be immediately obvious to us. Paul does not begin this letter with his usual salutation with praise and prayer for the saints. In fact, there isn't much of a salutation at all but rather he cuts straight to the point that you do not need to add law to the doctrine of grace.

In the opening of chapter 1, Paul asserts his authority to write the letter and refers to three pieces of evidence. He begins with his apostleship. This, as he explains, is strictly from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior not from the will of man. As an apostle of Jesus, Paul's ministry would have been well known to his readers. In fact, several churches in Galatia (Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe) were founded by Paul on his missionary journeys. He moves on in verses 3 & 4 to his central message: the Gospel centers on the personhood of Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, alone and the price He paid to free sinners from the debt of their unregenerate condition. He closes this section of his letter

### Questions for Reflection

1. How does the doctrine of grace affect the doctrine of salvation?
2. Where do works fit into the salvation of mankind?
3. How can we prevent legalism in the church and at the same time give works a definitive place in salvation?
4. Are there popular doctrines in our church that need to be examined for their authenticity?
5. How can you personally guard yourself against legalism? Are there certain "rituals" you still cling to for salvation?

with his intent, which is to bring glory and honor to the name of Christ!!

In short, Judaizers had infiltrated the churches in Galatia. I'm sure you recall the admonitions Peter wrote in his second epistle regarding the increase in false teachers. In this letter written by Paul, we are now looking at the effects of such teachings! Paul is quite amazed at how quickly they have begun to leave the doctrine of grace and have shifted back toward legalism. They had begun their Christian lives in the Spirit (through grace) and were now going to try to continue in the power of the flesh (legalism).

After having explained his authority, and expressed his concern for their spiritual condition, he exposes those preaching false doctrine in verses 7-9. They were perverting the gospel of grace (ill deserved favor from God) by adding law and legalism. This may seem fairly harmless, but it does nothing short of destroy the doctrine of grace and turn it into a message of earned and merited favor from God based on one's behavior. The simple truth is that the gospel of Christ is that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone!! Any doctrine, whether it be preached by man or angel, is false. You will notice that in both verse 8 and 9 Paul refers to these false teachers as "accursed". The Greek for this word is anathema which is interpreted as being bound under a great curse for destruction. Any deviation from the true, undiluted gospel of Jesus Christ brings with it tremendous, eternal consequences. Consider the doctrines you hold to be true. Hold them up to the light of scripture to see how they compare with the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you find any of them to be in error, depart as far away from them as possible!!