



**Deviation
and
Determination**
Galatians 5:1-12

- ▲ Contrary to _____, the Christian faith offers _____ than every other system.
- ▲ Every attempt to _____ - _____ leads me further away from the _____.
- ▲ What we _____ to be true will inevitably be revealed in how we act, react, and _____ of life.
- ▲ Getting off track is _____, learning to _____ is indispensable.
- ▲ We are incapable of _____ with God. We don't have to because Jesus is the _____ to God.

Where do I need to grow in “getting back on track”?



**Deviation
and
Determination**

Contrary to cultural assumptions, the Christian faith offers greater freedom than every other system.

Every attempt to self-justify leads me further away from the heart of God.

What we actually believe to be true will inevitably be revealed in how we act, react, and manage the realities of life.

Getting off track is inescapable, learning to get back on track is indispensable.

We are incapable of making ourselves right with God. We don't have to because Jesus is the exclusive pathway to God.

Where do I need to grow in “getting back on track”?

CONNECT WITH US



Everybody is going somewhere, few are going there intentionally. What is your next step and how can we help you take it? We hope that you find SBC to be safe (asking real questions and struggling with real issues) but not completely comfortable, because we believe that God is always moving and inviting us to follow.

We are glad that you are here and excited to help you get connected.



What are we most passionate about?
Being disciples of Jesus that take His message and values into where we live, work, play, and study.



Where are we going?
 Sign-up on our website to receive our mid-week email with upcoming
Becoming a multi-generational, gospel-

based community living changed lives Link available on our website to connect with our leadership team.

CONNECT WITH US

PASTORAL TEAM Nate Wagner & Ben Taylor
 38 S. State St. Sparta, MI 49345 / (616) 887-8813 / spartabaptist.org
 @spartabaptist @spartabaptist



Everybody is going somewhere, few are going there intentionally. What is your next step and how can we help you take it? We hope that you find SBC to be safe (asking real questions and struggling with real issues) but not completely comfortable, because we



believe that God is always moving w. We are glad that you are here

Link available on our website to connect with our leadership team.

What are we most passionate about?

Deviation and Determination

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. Gal 5:7-10a

Getting on the Same Page

Paul reaches the climax of this epistle, stating what can properly be called the theme of his letter. He follows with dire warnings about the consequences of seeking to be circumcised and justified by the Law. He then reminds them that the hope of righteousness is for those who through the Spirit eagerly wait for it with a faith working through love. These verses continue with warnings about allowing others to hinder their progress, with Paul’s harshest words reserved for those trying to impose circumcision.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Describe a time when you felt trapped (bumper to bumper traffic, a job with no growth potential, crippling injury, etc.). How did you feel when you finally experienced freedom?
- What do you think of the following statements as summaries of how to live the Christian life? Are they true? Explain.

✚ “Let go and let God!”

✚ “It’s all of Him, and not of us.”

✚ “I am nothing more than a sinner saved by grace.”

✚ “I’m not perfect, just forgiven.”

✚ “Keep seeking more of the Spirit’s anointings, new out-pourings of his blessings.”

✚ “It’s all about surrendering everything to Jesus.”

- How would you summarize how to live the Christian life?

Study Read Gal 5:1-12 Together

- Observations? Questions? Insights?
- In Gal 5:1 Paul says that it is for freedom that we were set free. What does he mean by this?
- What either-or choice does Paul then put before the Galatian Christians? How does it strike you?

- Instead of the Mosaic Law indicating whether we are part of God’s family, what does Paul say in Gal 5:5-6 are the true marks that we belong?
- What does “faith showing itself through love” look like in the life of a Jesus follower?
- What harm has been done to the Galatians by an unnamed person or group?
- How does Paul encourage the Galatians in Gal 5:7,10?
- Paul said that accepting circumcision doesn’t count for anything. So why is Paul so strongly against those that required it? What was the danger of putting this requirement on an equal level with what Jesus did on the cross? (vs. 9)
- What does Paul mean when he says that the cross is an offense or a scandal?
- Why do you think Paul expressed such extreme views regarding the false teachers in Gal 5:12?

Reflect & Respond

- “When we use God's grace as a motivator, we can criticize sharply and directly, but the other person will generally be able to perceive that we are nonetheless for them.” Timothy J. Keller
- “If you’re a church person and not a Jesus person, my heart hurts for you. It’s like being engaged and never getting married. It’s miserable.” Matt Chandler
- “The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.” CS Lewis

Application

- In what area of your life do you struggle to see God’s Best for you as offering true freedom?
- How do you sometimes find yourself seeking to earn God’s love, compensate, or carry unnecessary guilt and shame?
- In your spiritual life can you identify ways that you have “gotten off track” and need to get back on?
- Where do you need to improve your skills on “getting back on track”?