

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for February 10, 2008**

**Righteousness Bothered by Legalists**  
**Galatians 5:7-12**  
**Gerry Andersen**

The final two chapters of Galatians teaches us the holiness of God comes to us by God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, not our works through the keeping of the Law.

**1. The source of the persuasion (5:7-8)**

Paul was fond of using the analogy of running to represent the Christian life (1 Corinthians 9:24-26; 2 Timothy 4:7).

The Galatians were persuaded by a person.

The Galatians were persuaded to no longer obey the truth.

Obedience is more compelling when we recognize we are following the truth.

The Galatians were persuaded by an ungodly source.

Regardless of reputation, any persuasion that detracts from the grace of God is not from the One who calls us.

**2. The spread of the persuasion (5:9)**

Jesus spoke of leaven as analogous to the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 16:11-12).

The teaching of legalism impedes the teaching of truth.

The Gentiles were hungrier for truth than the Jews.

Legalism spreads when people are oblivious to it. The leaven of legalism spreads quickly because people are open to it.

**3. The security against the persuasion (5:10a)**

Why was Paul concerned about the Galatians if he was confident in their faith?

Our confidence in the Lord must not diminish the enthusiasm for the labor.

#### **4. The sentence of those persuading (5:10b)**

Those who disrupt the faith will bear the judgment.

Knowledge of the future judgment leads to encouragement.

#### **5. The slander of those persuading (5:11)**

Paul defended himself against the charge that he was advocating circumcision.

Those who erect false standards of righteousness avoid the trouble that comes from following the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:12).

Legalism not only opposes righteousness, it opposes the very gospel message itself.

#### **6. The seriousness of the persuasion (5:12)**

How seriously you take a threat depends on how serious you believe the damage could be.

How serious you believe the damage could be determines how seriously we respond.

How seriously we respond contributes to the protection against the threat.

May we be united in our opposition to legalistic people who judge by external religious standards.