



## Standing Firm in Freedom

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### WEEK 2

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### Alpha Prayer Points

- Fall Morning Alpha started on October 26th. Continue to Pray for God to bring participants who are seeking after faith, and for smooth logistics each time.
- Pray for the participants who are attending Fall Morning Alpha, that they would feel welcome and be open to the truths shown to them.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who came to Spring 2023 Alpha and who are meeting now in twice-monthly post-Alpha groups. Pray that as they learn and experience Spiritual Practices, they would feel drawn to the love of Jesus.

### How Did it Go?

*10 Minutes*

PROVIDE SUPPORTS, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO ONE ANOTHER FOR PUTTING THE WORD OF GOD INTO PRACTICE. TOGETHER, FIND WAYS TO LIVE OUT THE SCRIPTURE.

- Do you regularly pray for the teachers, students, and staff of the Presbyterian School? The Alpha Prayer Points?
- When are you enslaved by the type of legalism Paul warns against in Galatians? How is this study helping to liberate you from that bondage?
- What else stuck with you from last week's study, and how were you able to put that into practice in your life?

### Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **GALATIANS 5:2-12.**

## Head

*15-20 Minutes*

### OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS

1. What does Paul warn has already happened to the person who receives circumcision seeking to be justified by the law?
2. Where does Paul suggest our hope of righteousness comes from?
3. What does yeast symbolize in v. 9? See Matt. 13:33, 16:11-12, 1 Cor. 5:6-12?

## Heart

*15-20 Minutes*

### ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. What role, status, power, etc., do you seek in order to justify yourself apart from Christ?
2. Where in your life can you identify faith working through love (v. 6)?
3. Who or what may be cutting in on your good race to keep you from obeying the truth (v. 7)? Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your life and talk with God about what to do about it.

## Hands

*10 Minutes*

APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES. THESE ARE SPECIFIC, CONCRETE EXAMPLES BUT THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY WAY - THEY ARE IDEA-STARTERS FOR HOW TO PUT THE WORD OF GOD INTO PRACTICE.

### Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Resolve that the next time you are tempted to rely on your role or status to justify your life, you will pray that God will show you a single step to take toward letting Christ's acceptance establish your identity.
- Ask God to show you whether there is some good thing you are doing not as a grateful and joyful response to His love, but as an attempt to earn His approval or look good to others. Ask His help in overcoming this tendency.

### Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Identify someone in your life to whom you can show gracious love simply because God loves you that way, and not because of what they can do for you.
- Identify a rival or "enemy" in your life to whom you can be gracious because Christ's grace to you means you don't have to "win" to justify your life.

- Ask a friend or neighbor to join you at church on Sunday November 12 and to stay for lunch and a participatory workshop on Spiritual Practices for a Simpler Holiday Season. <https://fpchouston.org/event/spiritual-practices-for-a-simpler-holiday/> For more information, contact Sara Buskirk at [sbuskirk@fpchouston.org](mailto:sbuskirk@fpchouston.org).

## Reaching Beyond

- What steps will you take this week to put what Paul says into practice?
- Volunteers are needed for set up and all shopping days for the 22nd annual FPC Advent Missions Market held Sundays December 3, 10, and 17 from 8 AM - 1:00 PM in Palm Court. The market offers unique crafts from global partner artisans worldwide that make excellent Christmas gifts. Sales provide support and awareness for FPC global ministry partners. To learn more or sign up as a volunteer, please email Mary-Floye Federer at [mffederer@fpchouston.org](mailto:mffederer@fpchouston.org).
- For other upcoming outreach opportunities to serve at FPC, go to <https://fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities>.