

# *Intro to “Living in Freedom”*

## **Galatians 1:1-5**

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction

- “DANGER: Enter at your own risk!”
- “Cornerstone of the Protestant Reformation”; “Magna Carta of Liberty”
- Galatians is dangerous because it unmasked the most popular substitute for spiritual living—legalism! Galatians 5:1

## *Intro to “Living in Freedom”*

### **A. The Messenger: Paul Galatians 1:1**

- a. Book unquestionably written by Paul
- b. Paul’s background makes him the perfect spokesman to speak about both legalism and grace.

### **B. The Recipients; The Churches of Galatia Galatians 1:2-5**

- a. Who were the “Galatians”?
  1. Galatia as not a city in the Roman empire, like Rome or Corinth or Philippi, but rather a territory in Asia Minor.
    - a) North Galatia settled by the Gauls
    - b) Roman province of Galatia established in 25 BC and included the southern cities of Psidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.
  2. Did Paul address the churches in the ethnic north or to those in the southern Roman province of Galatia?
    - a) North Galatia view explained—Acts 16:6-7; 18:23
    - b) Southern Galatia view defended—Acts 13-14
- b. Why is there a lack of commendation for these churches?
  1. Paul commends every church except Galatians, including the immoral church at Corinth.—1 Corinthians 1:4-9
  2. The problems in the Churches
    - a) The questioning of Paul’s credentials as an apostle- 1:1
      - 1) Ministry not “from men”—source
      - 2) Not “through men”—instrumentality
      - 3) But “through Jesus Christ”—Acts 26:12-18
    - b) The questioning of Paul’s Message—1:3-4
      - 1) As to its independent nature—Galatians 1-2
      - 2) Statement of Paul’s Gospel—Galatians 1:3-4
        - (a) “Grace” and “Peace”
        - (b) Salvation by grace through faith plus nothing
      - 3) Defense of Paul’s Gospel—Galatians 3-4
      - 4) Practical Outcome: FREEDOM—Galatians 5-6
    - c) The questioning of Paul’s Motives—1:5