**Small Group Talk Sheet**

**Galatians – Week 3: Galatians 1:11-24**

**Dave Wilde**

**Intro –** *Authority is about trust.*

**Big Idea** – The concept of authority it based on earning and keeping trust. An authority has a goal in mind. To achieve that goal, the one in authority has to build trust in order to take people to a goal.

**Notes**

Paul continues in V. 11 with his conversation about from where he received his revelation. He makes the very clear case that his revelation came from Jesus himself. Recall in Acts 9 when he met Jesus on the Damascus Road. We can assume here that Paul was hearing a great deal of commentary from others that his authority wasn’t directly from Jesus, but from other people, from the church, and from Jerusalem and not from Jesus.

With authority coming from Jerusalem, it could be suggested that if Paul’s authority came from Jerusalem, the Judaizers could also claim authority over the gospel. In other words, Jerusalem suggests an authority that comes from Jerusalem since Jerusalem was the center of faith, which means it was the center of Judaism. If it could be suggested that Paul’s authority came from Jerusalem (Jewish religion), the Judaizers could sort of ride Paul’s coattails into their own brand of usurped authority. This would give them a sound basis (or so they thought) for their claim to authority. This would, subsequently, give them a way to supplement the gospel message with elements of Judaism. The Judaizers could claim that Paul’s gospel wasn’t the full gospel without the trappings of Jewish tradition and ritual. There was probably a great fear that Christianity was going to wipe out Jewish identity and heritage.

The “gospel which was preached” by Paul had three main emphases. First, salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone. Jesus was a fulfillment of all that Moses had given in years past. Second, one is accepted based on the sacrifice of Jesus and not by following the Law. Third, the acceptance of God is as open to non-Jews (Gentiles) as it is to Jews. The gospel is for everyone!

**Small Group Questions: Leader, please read the following questions and give everyone a chance to participate.**

1. Give some examples of authority that you trust or have trusted over the years (“I trust what \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has to say/tell me”).

2. As you consider human authorities on earth, what are some of the goals of those authorities (i.e. police, government, church, higher education, businesses, etc)?

3. What do some of these authorities do to be sure that you respect their authority?

4. Can a person be punished into putting real trust in an authority? Why or why not?

5. When you submit to authority, is it because of fear or trust? Which is more effective in your opinion?

6. When you consider your own authority (your desire for people to follow what you say), what is at the root of your authority (i.e. a desire to be feared)?

7. What happens to a person’s authority when they put Jesus at the root of their authority and nothing else (not driven by money or power)?

**Final Thoughts**

***Proverbs 9:10-12 (NIV)***

10The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

11For through wisdom your days will be many,

and years will be added to your life.

12If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you;

if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer. [[1]](#footnote-1)

We talked a little about this verse this last week at church. What are your thoughts on this verse as we wrap up this group session?

1. *The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Pr 9:10–12. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)