



WEEK 2 || *GALATIANS 1:11-2:10*

## FREE FROM SECOND THOUGHTS

We live in a world of options. Education options, career options, health options, relationship options, political and entertainment options... the list of movies on Netflix is almost endless. But Paul says when it comes to salvation, there's only one option. How can we be sure he's right?

Have you ever doubted that trusting in Jesus is the right choice for your life? Doubts can be good and healthy, a natural part of a life of faith, so feel free to share your experiences.

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## PRESSURE IN GALATIA

When new teachers arrived in Galatia, the Galatians lost confidence in the message they had heard from Paul – ‘just trust in Jesus’. Doubts are natural and normal, but they become a problem when they start to take control. So in this part of his letter, Paul gives them some details from his own life story to help restore their confidence...

### Read Paul’s own story in Galatians 1:11-2:10

1. Contrast Paul’s life before he committed to Jesus and after, using the details Paul shares here:

#### Before Jesus

#### After Jesus

What he tried to achieve

What he opposed

Who accepted him

Why he was accepted

His source of truth

2. Why would this transition have been hard for Paul?
3. How would some of the ‘after Jesus’ things have helped Paul overcome doubts and fully commit his life to trusting in Jesus?
4. Imagine you were a Galatian Christian being pushed to ‘turn Jewish’. How might Paul’s own story give you confidence to trust Jesus alone /stay uncircumcised / eat pork?

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## FREEDOM TODAY

The exact details of how Paul first received the good news from Jesus are reassuring. Paul left behind the very thing they were being pushed to take up: the Jewish law! And the only reason was that he met the resurrected Jesus in person. That means when he says, “Just trust in Jesus,” he really knows what’s he’s talking about! But can Paul’s story be just as helpful for us and our freedom as it was for the Galatians?

5. Think back to last week. Where do you feel your freedom under pressure from: people pleasing, gospel compromise or burden building?

What’s tempting about these ‘add ons’ or ‘adjustments’ to trusting in Jesus? What do we think we’ll get out of them?

6. Paul warns that by caving in to pressure and not sticking with ‘just trust Jesus’, you also jeopardise the freedom of others (2:6). How could that happen in practice?
7. Help each other do the same ‘before and after’ exercise for yourselves as you did for Paul (question 2). If you’re a Christian, put in what should be true of you. If you’re not, put in what would be true if you were.

### Before Jesus

### After Jesus

What you try to achieve

What you oppose

Who accepts you

Why you’re accepted

Your source of truth

8. Paul says true freedom comes from trusting in Jesus alone, and letting everything else in life be less important by comparison. Does his story give you any more confidence that this is true? How so?

Pray together, that the “Before and After” contrast would be something we live out with confidence every day.