



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 1:1–10

Questions for the Week: What is the Gospel? Why is it so important to get it right?

READ THE TEXT – Galatians 1:1–10

The Structure

1. Salutation (Gal 1:1–5)
 - 1.1. Source of Paul's Apostleship is Jesus and God the Father (Gal 1:1)
 - 1.1.1. "Apostle" occurs 80x in the NT, 34x in Paul's letters (Rom 1:1; 11:13; 16:7; 1 Cor 1:1; 4:9; 9:1, 2, 5; 12:28, 29; 15:7, 9[x2]; 2 Cor 1:1; 8:23; 11:5, 13; 12:11, 12; Gal 1:1, 17, 19; Eph 1:1; 2:20; 3:5; 4:11; Phil 2:25; Col 1:1; 1 Thess 2:7; 1 Tim 1:1; 2:7; 2 Tim 1:1, 11; Titus 1:1)
 - 1.1.2. Paul self-identifies as an "apostle" in 9 Salutations (Rom 1:1; 1 Cor 1:1; 2 Cor 1:1; Gal 1:1; Eph 1:1; Col 1:1; 1 Tim 1:1; 2 Tim 1:1; Titus 1:1). Compare Phil 1:1; Phlm 1; 1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1)
 - 1.2. Addressees "Galatia" (Gal 1:2)
 - 1.2.1. Theory of "Galatia" in the North, near the modern city of Ankra, Turkey (Acts 16:6–8; 18:22–23)
 - 1.2.2. Theory of "Galatia" in the South, near the modern city of Konya, Turkey (Acts 13:14–14:20; 16:1–2)
 - 1.2.3. Paul founded the church in Galatia (Gal 4:8–16)
 - 1.3. Grace and Peace Greetings (Gal 1:3–4)
 - 1.3.1. "Grace and Peace" as Paul's standard greeting (Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3; 2 Cor 1:2; Eph 1:2; Phil 1:2; Col 1:2; 1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:2; 1 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2; Phlm 3)
 - 1.3.2. Meaning of Jesus's Death (Gal 1:4)
 - 1.3.2.1. "giving . . . for sins" mirrors phrases elsewhere in the NT (Mark 10:45 // Matt 20:28; 1 Pet 2:21; Heb 9:28), especially in Paul's letters (1 Cor 15:3; 2 Cor 5:14–15; Gal 2:20; 1 Thess 5:10).
 - 1.3.2.1.1. Eucharistic language (1 Cor 11:24; Mark 14:19; Luke 22:19–20)
 - 1.3.2.1.2. Language from Jewish Scripture (Isa 53:5, 8, 12)
 - 1.3.2.2. "Deliver" describes rescue from imminent danger or oppression (Gen 32:12; Exod 3:8; 18:8–10; Judg 6:9; Acts 7:10, 34; 12:11; 23:27; 26:17; Gal 3:13–14; 4:4–5)
 - 1.3.2.3. "Present evil age" (see also Eph 5:16; 6:12; 2 Cor 10:1–6)

2. The Problem in Galatia –Troublemakers with a false Gospel (Gal 1:6–9)
 - 2.1. An Astonishing Turn (Gal 1:6)
 - 2.1.1. “Deserting [μετατίθημι]”
 - 2.1.1.1. Physical movement (Acts 7:16; Heb 11:5)
 - 2.1.1.2. Change (Heb 7:12; Jude 4)
 - 2.1.2. One who “called” the Galatian believers is God
 - 2.1.2.1. The language of “calling” elsewhere in Galatians refers to God (Gal 1:15; 5:8; 5:13)
 - 2.1.2.2. Elsewhere in Paul’s letters (Rom 4:17; 8:30[x2]; 9:24–26; 1 Cor 1:9; 7:15, 17, 18[x2], 20, 21, 22[x2], 24).
 - 2.1.2.3. Paul was the instrument of the divine calling for the Galatians, not the ultimate source (Gal 4:13–15)
 - 2.2. Another Gospel (Gal 1:7–9)
 - 2.2.1. “Those disturbing”
 - 2.2.1.1. Can be a physical “stirring” (Homer, *Od.* 5.291; Euripides, *Tro.* 88; John 5:7), even to be “shaken” off a horse (Xenophon, *Cyr.* 5.2.17)
 - 2.2.1.2. Can also refer to disturbance of the mind (Matt 2:3; Matt 14:2 // Mark 6:50; Luke 1:12; 24:38–39; Acts 15:24)
 - 2.2.1.3. Can be caused by grief (John 11:33, 35; 12:27; 13:21; 14:1, 27)
 - 2.3. The Opponents (Gal 1:7, 9; see also Gal 3:1–5; 4:17–21; 5:7–12; 6:12–16)
 - 2.4. The Gospel
 - 2.4.1. The noun “Gospel [εὐαγγέλιον]” is used only six times in the OT, 4 in the sense of “good news” (2 Sam 18:20, 25, 27; 2 Kgs 7:9) and two in the sense of “the reward for good news” (2 Sam 4:10; 18:22).
 - 2.4.2. The verb “Gospelize [εὐαγγελίζομαι]” is more common the Greek translation of the Old Testament (LXX), but still not especially frequent:
 - 2.4.2.1. Announcing military victory (1 Sam 31:9; 1 Kgs 1:42; Ps 40:10; 68:11; 96:2; Nah 1:15; Joel 2:32)
 - 2.4.2.2. Announcing return from exile and YHWH taking the throne (Isa 40:9; 52:7; 60:6; 61:1).
 - 2.4.3. Paul uses the noun “gospel” sixty times, 7x in Galatians (Gal 1:6, 7, 11; 2:2, 5, 7, 14)
 - 2.4.3.1. Gospel Summaries (1 Cor 15:1–8; Rom 1:1–6; 2 Tim 2:8)
 - 2.4.3.2. Offers Salvation for all humanity (Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 15:1; Eph 1:13; Col 1:23; 2 Tim 1:10)
 - 2.4.3.3. Basis of judgment (Rom 2:16; 2 Cor 4:3–4; 2 Thess 1:5–12)

- 2.4.3.4. Believers participate in the Gospel through suffering (1 Cor 9:12; Phil 1:12; 2 Tim 1:8), giving (Phil 4:15; 2 Cor 9:13), and following the example of Jesus's self-giving (Gal 2:14–21).
3. Paul's Goal (Gal 1:10)
- 3.1. Not to please humans
- 3.2. Please God as a servant of Christ

Questions this Week:

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–8 and Romans 1:1–6. How would you define the Gospel?
- Why is it so important that the Gospel is not altered?

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord's reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?