

Study Guide – Outline for Lesson 2: *Essentials of the Gospel and the Foundation of Faith*

Introduction:

- **Objective:** To examine the foundational elements of the gospel and their vital role in establishing the believer and equipping the biblical leader.
 - **Opening Question:** What parts of the gospel are so essential that if altered, they compromise salvation or hinder spiritual growth?
 - **Scripture Focus:** *Galatians 1:6–9* – A warning against departing from the true gospel.
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Outline & Main Points

I. Leadership Begins with Gospel Clarity

- Paul gives strong warnings about those who preach “another gospel” (Gal. 1:6–9).
- Even believers can be “removed” from the gospel—not losing salvation, but losing direction and growth.
- Biblical leaders must guard the gospel with accuracy and conviction.

II. The Gospel’s Core Components

- **Deity of Christ** – Christ must be God for His sacrifice to be effective (Rom. 9:5, 1 Tim. 3:16).
- **Death for Our Sins** – A substitutionary payment that satisfies God’s wrath (1 Cor. 15:3, Rom. 4:25).
- **Resurrection** – Proves victory over sin and secures justification (1 Cor. 15:14–17).
- **Faith Alone** – Justification is apart from works (Gal. 3:11; Rom. 3:28).
- Any deviation (e.g., adding law, baptism, works) undermines the gospel’s power.

III. Edification: The Design of Spiritual Growth

- Paul’s epistles follow a structure: *foundation (Romans–Galatians)*, *fullness (Ephesians–Colossians)*, *capstone (Thessalonians)*.
- Key terms: *planted, established, babes, children, fruit, perfect man*.
- Growth must be built on the correct foundation.

IV. Grace Does Not Excuse Sin

- Romans 6 and Jude 4 warn against using grace as license for sin.
- True grace leads to a life of righteousness and reverence.

- Believers are planted in holiness and are to grow in sanctification.
 - Sin may not affect salvation, but it does hinder maturity and fruitfulness.
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Conclusion:

Biblical leaders must know and preserve the true gospel. The foundational truths—Christ’s deity, death, resurrection, and justification by faith alone—are not negotiable. Misunderstanding or altering them not only weakens spiritual growth but risks leading others astray. Furthermore, grace is not permission to sin, but the empowerment to walk in newness of life. Leadership that is spiritual and scriptural begins with a right foundation and a humble heart aligned with God’s holiness and purpose.

Challenge/Assignment:

- Identify and list the essential gospel truths from Paul’s epistles.
- Note how Paul distinguishes between foundation and growth.
- Evaluate how common distortions (faith + works, law, performance) can subtly affect gospel clarity.