

The Only Gospel

Our world is full of belief systems. Different religions. Different faiths. Different “paths” people say will lead you to God. Many religions claim to have the gospel - good news. But here’s the big question: **What good news should we actually believe?** There’s a book in the Bible that speaks directly to that question: Galatians.

Not long before Paul wrote this letter, he had been to Galatia in person—traveling from town to town, preaching what he himself called “*the gospel of the grace of God*” (Acts 20:24).

Paul said in one of his sermons in Galatia (Acts 13), *We bring you the good news that what God promised, he has fulfilled to us by raising Jesus from the dead. And Paul said, let it be known to you, that through Jesus, forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.*

That is pure grace. Believe in Jesus and you will be free. You can never be free by religious law keeping. You can only be free by believing in Jesus. That is the good news, and when Paul

preached it, many Galatians believed. They became Christians—resting, not in their own goodness, but in the grace of God. They found freedom.

But it didn't take long for trouble to show up. Other traveling teachers came into Galatia. They used the word "gospel." They talked about Jesus. They even spoke about faith. But they didn't preach the gospel of grace.

And these Galatian believers started to get confused. They remembered what Paul taught, but these new preachers were smooth. And slowly, the Galatians started to lean toward what Paul would call "a different gospel."

When Paul heard about this, he wrote them urgently. And the message of this letter, in essence, was this: **Out of all the "gospels" this world offers, there is only one true gospel. Only one. Anything else is a counterfeit. And that one true gospel is the pure gospel of the grace of God found in Jesus Christ.**

In chapter 1, Paul teaches you and me today a very important lesson:

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE DOES WHAT NO OTHER GOSPEL WILL EVER DO.

From Galatians 1, I'm going to show you **5 accomplishments** that only grace can do.

Accomplishment #1 – Only the gospel of grace can RESCUE you from your sin and this sinful world. **Galatians 1:1-5**

*1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, **who raised him from the dead**—*

2 and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

*3 **Grace** to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,*

*4 who **gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father,*

*5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
ESV*

Accomplishment #2 – Only the gospel of grace can SAVE you from the curse of God. **Galatians 1:6-9** (cf. Acts 13:32-39)

*6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the **grace of Christ** and are turning to a **different gospel**—
7 **not that there is another one**, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

*9 As we have said before, so now I say again: **If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.** ESV*

Accomplishment #3 – Only the gospel of grace can MAKE you a God-pleasing servant of Christ. **Galatians 1:10** (cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:4)

*10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? **If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.***

Accomplishment #4 – Only the gospel of grace can SHOW you God's truth. **Galatians 1:11-12** (cf. Galatians 1:7; 2:16; 5:4; Acts 9:1-19; 26:17-18).

11 *“For I would have you know, brothers, that the **gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel**.*

12 *For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” ESV*

Accomplishment #5 – Only the gospel of grace can TRANSFORM you from the inside out.

Galatians 1:13-24 (Matthew 23:24-25)

13 *For you have heard of **my former life in Judaism**, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.*

14 *And I **was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers**.*

15 ***But when** he who had set me apart before I was born, and **who called me by his grace**,*

16 *was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;*

17 *nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.*

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)

21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

22 And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ.

*23 They only were hearing it said, "**He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.**"*

24 And they glorified God because of me.
ESV

Paul went from *hating Jesus* to *preaching Jesus*. And we ask, What changed Paul? **The answer: God's marvelous gospel of grace.** That's transformation. That's the power of God's one true gospel. And did you notice verse 24? Grace is so transforming that people cannot explain the change except to say, "*God did that.*"

