THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

THURSDAYS, SEP 7-DEC 7 @ 6:30-7:30A

IN-PERSON - THE LOOP CAMPUS (GARDEN ROOM - 158)

ONLINE - (ZOOM)







September 7 – December 7, 2023

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Psalm 119:18 NIV

Our Warrior's Heart journey this Fall 2023 will encounter the joy and grace presented by the Apostle Paul in Galatians.

We will have a <u>combination of extraordinary teachers</u> who will lead us through each of the six (6) chapters of Galatians, <u>plus</u> a <u>personal study and group discussions</u> to dive into the riches of this amazing book.

To maximize each of our understanding and application to our own lives please consider using the S.P.A.C.E. method to dig out **GOLD NUGGETS** in Galatians as follows:

S – Is there a Sin to Confess?

P – Is there a Promise to Claim?

A – Is there an Attitude to Change?

C – Is there a Command to Obey?

E – Is there an Example to Follow?

Write down your Galatian chapter highlights in the ATTACHED weekly worksheets and then come prepared to discuss over your Table / Breakout Room.

An Overview with Martin Dixon September 7, 2023

1.	The he	eart of letter of Galatians: Gospel
2.	Sugge	ested outline of Galatians
	l.	The Gospel is, 1
	II.	The Gospel Message: by, 2-3
	III.	The Gospel Mandate: Live life by
	IV.	The Gospel Model: in, 6
3.	Chap	ter Summary
	l.	Jewish Christians argument: Torah is by, from, of and Paul's
		argument: Gospel message is commissioned by and God The Father
	II.	Requiring Gentile Christians to practice the Torah does two things:
		a) Betrays the of, 2:15-16
		Justification means: Declared, Forgiven, given a place in God's
		, transformed by
		b) Places in the center of, 2:21
	III.	Examples of Justification in the Old Testament
		a) Story of Abraham (3:7-9; Gen. 12, 15).
		God declared Abraham righteous by his in God's promises (Gen. 15:6)
		before the was given and before he was (Gen. 17:10-14)
		b) The Law of Moses: Given to do two things
		i Israel's sin and failure, guilty, them
		ii. Keep Israel in
	IV.	How will Gentile Christians live without the Law? (Paul's response):
		a) Before coming to faith in Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles were enslaved by
		of the world (4:3)
		b) Elements of the world: Jews Gentiles
	V.	As members of a New family (by adoption) we have a New Teacher and Guide :
		(5:16-26).

VI.	Spirit-led believers are called upon to participate in two ministries:
	a) burdens (6:1-5)
	b) blessings (6:6-10)

Galatians 1
September 14, 2023

Read Galatians 1 – "The Gospel is Divine"

Carefully read Galatians 1 and look for any of the following: S - Sin to confess; P - Promise to claim; A – Attitude to change; C – Command to Obey; E – Example to follow

Your Personal Notes:

Discussion Questions

Why is it important that the gospel is God sent versus manmade?

In the Galatian church and in the world today, what forces try to pervert the gospel of Christ?

Galatians 1 Summary September 21, 2023

Your Personal Notes – "The Gospel is Divine"

Galatians 2 September 28, 2023

Read Galatians 2 - "HE Did it!"

Carefully read Galatians 2 and look for any of the following: S - Sin to confess; P - Promise to claim; A – Attitude to change; C – Command to Obey; E – Example to follow

Your Personal Notes:

Discussion Questions

How does our identity change once we receive Christ by faith?

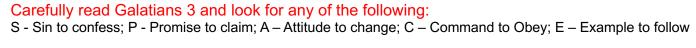
Paul states in Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live". How does that impact our lives?

Galatians 2 Summary October 5, 2023

Your Personal Notes – "HE Did it!"

Galatians 3 October 12, 2023

Read Galatians 3 – "Comes from HIM."



Your Personal Notes:

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law?

What has God promised to those who receive Him by faith?

Galatians 3 Summary October 19, 2023

Your Personal Notes – "Comes from HIM."

Galatians 4 October 26, 2023

Read Galatians 4 - "Am I Still a Slave?"

Carefully read Galatians 4 and look for any of the following:

S - Sin to confess; P - Promise to claim; A - Attitude to change; C - Command to Obey; E - Example to follow

Your Personal Notes:

Discussion Questions

After putting my faith in Christ how does God see me? (See Galatians 4: 6-7)

What would you say to a person who struggles with relating to God as a loving and grace-giving father?

Are there any areas of your life that more resembles slavery versus freedom? (Give each of those areas to God – Ask Him to set you free!)

Galatians 4 Summary November 2, 2023

Your Personal Notes – "Am I Still a Slave?"

Galatians 5
November 9, 2023

Read Galatians 5 - "A New Life by the Spirit"

Carefully read Galatians 5 and look for any of the following: S - Sin to confess; P - Promise to claim; A – Attitude to change; C – Command to Obey; E – Example to follow

Your Personal Notes:

Discussion Questions

What are the differences between the sinful nature and the fruits of the Spirit?

Am I fully open to the Holy Spirit in all areas of my life (why or why not)?

Galatians 5 Summary November 16, 2023

Your Personal Notes – "A New Life by the Spirit"

Galatians 6
November 30, 2023

Read Galatians 6 – "Living my New Life"

Carefully read Galatians 6 and look for any of the following:

S - Sin to confess; P - Promise to claim; A - Attitude to change; C - Command to Obey; E - Example to follow

Your Personal Notes:

Discussion Questions

Am I weary in my life with Christ?

Do I have real and authentic relationships with brothers in Christ who I bring strength and they also strengthen me?

Galatians 6 Summary December 7, 2023

Your Personal Notes – "Living my New Life"



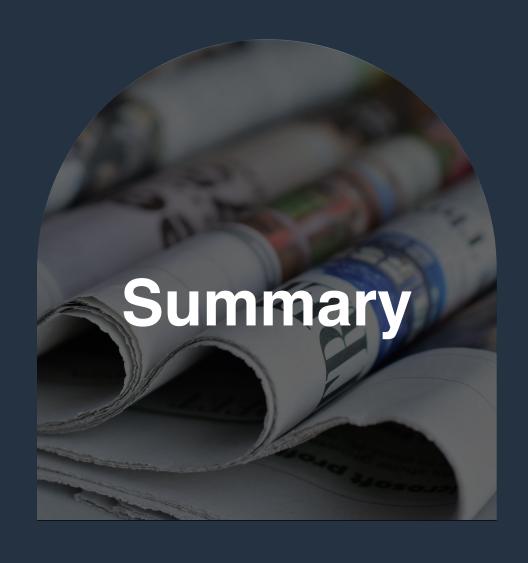


Our lives are saturated with news from the media:

- > Print, Cable, Radio, internet etc.
- Stories ran/reported by
- a) CNN/Times magazine: US military used nerve gas during Vietnam war on defectors (retracted story/some heads roll)
- b) Cincinnati Enquirer: US Business riddled with improper business practices (retracted story/ some heads roll)
- c) Fox News: Dominion voting machines have the ability to switched votes from one candidate to another (Acknowledge court rulings that certain claims were false/ settled for lots of money)
- "Rough draft" as the news is called can be rough
- News media/readership continue to deteriorate the last two decades
- This problem of the news is not new: Hymn writer, William Cooper: "God moves in mysterious ways" called news media of his day: "Ever bubbling spring of endless lies."

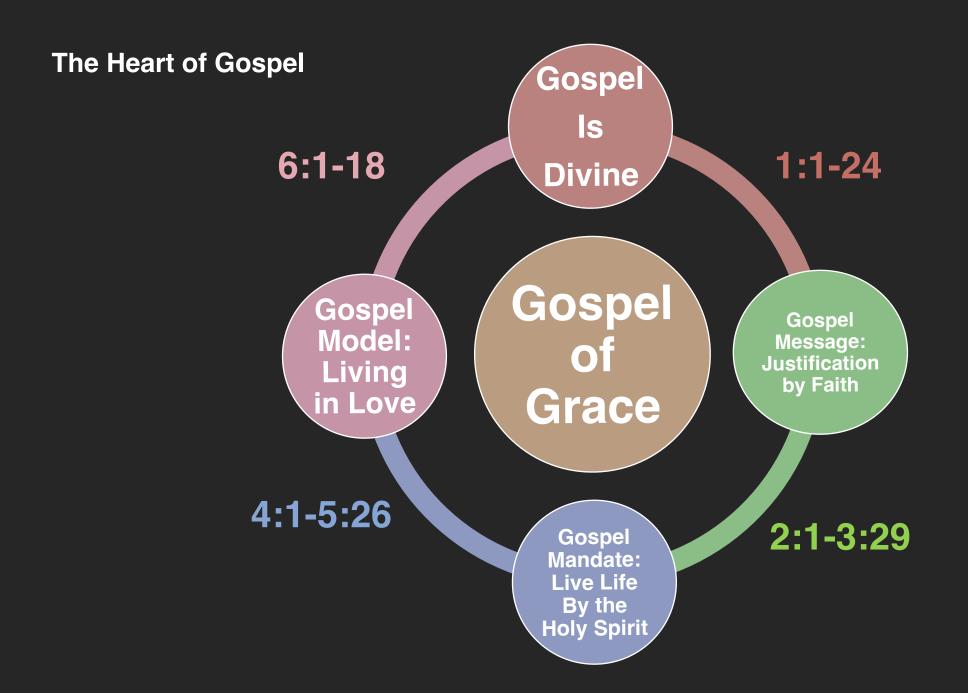
News "Media"

- Where do we fine true, reliable, importance and useful news? CHURCH
- Have you thought the church as a "News Organization?"
- 1. Reliable source
- 2. Means of distribution
- 3. Audience
- 4. We have tremendous news
- What the church is about is getting out this news, message, one that is in no danger of being recalled, or retracted.
- What is this news? How can we summarize it?
- ➤ Let turn to a document that is older, shorter, more universally recognized and clearer.
- One Martin Luther called his "My own letter." Not because he wrote it, but because it was the bed rock in his understanding of the gospel message. That document is Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia, present day Turkey





A Walk Through Galatians



Galatians – written to churches in Galatia by Paul Written from a place of passion and frustration – angriest Paul has been

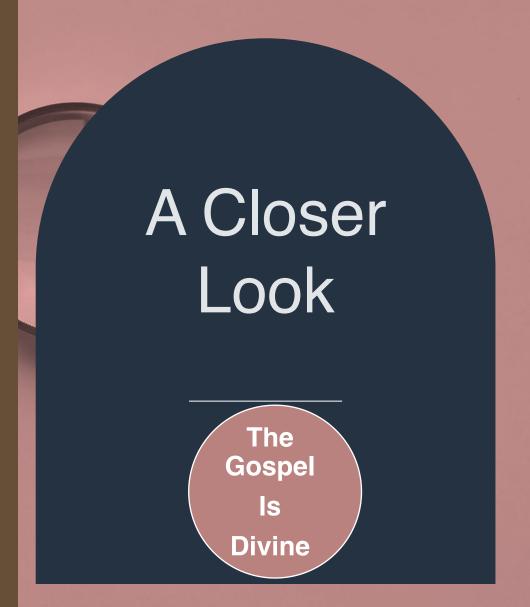
- Christianity started as Jewish Messianic movement in Jerusalem.
- Message was for all humanity. Movement quickly spread beyond Jerusalem to the Gentile world.
- Spread sparked a big debate (Acts 15)
- Historically, the Covenant people were focused on one ethnic group – Israel
- a) Set apart by practices of the Torah Kosher, circumcision, Sabbath, Jewish Holidays
- b) Some Jewish Christians believed to be part of the big covenant people, non-Jewish Christians needed to obey the Torah, not the case in Galatia
- c) Some came to the churches in Galatia, demanding practices of the Torah.
- It undermined the message of Paul.

A Closer Look

How Did It Start?

Chapter 1

- Paul began letter by defending the veracity and authority of his message:
- 1. Message not from men or by man, vv.1, 11-12
- 2. Commissioned by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead (Acts 9).
- 3. Paul argued the Gospel of grace given Jesus Christ was supported by the leaders, 2:6-10
- 4. This is key. Jewish Christians argued: Torah was from God, by God, of God and Moses, and that Paul was no authority
- Paul was hurt because
- 1. Jewish Christians said ugly things him, vv.13ff
- 2. Distorted the Gospel of Grace, vv.7-9
- 3. Gentile Christians were leaving grace for the law, a loss of their Christian freedom, v. 6
- 4. God gave Moses Ten Commandments. By the time of Jesus, there were **613** laws.



Chapter 2-3

For Paul, demanding the Gentile Christians to practice the Torah does two things

- Betrays the Gospel of grace, one not received by works
- Paul's own words: People are not justified by the works of the Torah, rather by the faith of Jesus the Messiah, and we have faith in Jesus the Messiah, 2:15-16
- Justification (OT word) means: Declared righteous - right relationship with God, forgiven, given a place in God's family, transformed by God's grace.
- 2. Places works in the center of salvation
- > We are justified only through trusting in what God did for them through Jesus, not by what they do for themselves
- > What is true of Jesus is true of Paul, 2:19-20

A Closer Look

How Did It Start?

Gospel Message: Justificatio n by Faith In chapter 3, Paul turns to two OT truths to buttress his point:

- Story of Abraham (3:7-9; Gen. 12, 15)
- God declared Abraham righteous by his faith in God's promises (Gen. 15:6) way before the law was given and before he was circumcised (Gen. 17:10-14)
- > Gospel was announced ahead of time to Abraham through the promise: All nations will be blessed through through their faith like Abraham and find God through Abraham's offspring, Jesus Christ 3:16 (Gen. 12:3)
- God's purpose was to always have a large family of people who will relate to him on the basis of faith, not the law, 3:11

A Closer Look **How Did It Start?** Gospel Message: Justificatio

n by Faith

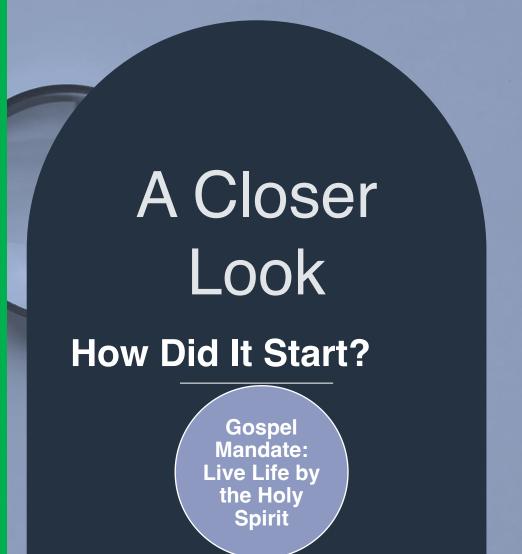
- 2. The Law. Why was it given? Two reasons
- a) Law performs a negative role: Like a
 microscope, it exposes Israel's failures and sin
 pronounces them guilty imprisons them
- b) Law performs a positive role: Acted like a strict school teacher, college professor, Senior pastor, to keep Israel in line until the coming of Abraham's promised offspring (3:24)
- ➤ Through Jesus (Abraham's offspring), God's blessings came to all people regardless of their race, gender, social status, nationality (3:27-29)

A Closer Look How Did It Start?

Gospel
Message:
Justificatio
n by Faith

Chapter 4-5

- ➤ The Jewish Christians argue: Laws of the Torah are a proven guide to live by.
- > How will Gentile Christians learn to live?
- > Paul's response (Chapter 4)
- Jews & Gentiles: Before coming to faith in Jesus
- a) Were in slavery under elements of the world, 4:3.
- > Jews were slaves under the law
- ➤ Gentiles were slaves under false religions
- Both systems (elements) require performance to get God to accept and bless you. These systems put God in our debt
- b) God can't be in our debt.
- 2. So, Jesus born of a woman (Jew, mankind), under the law (a member of the Mosaic covenant) perfectly obey the law to redeem all under it, adopt them into God's family, vv.4-7



As members of a new family (by adoption) we have a new teacher and guide, the Holy Spirit to help us live in this world (**Chapter 5**)

- Laws of the Torah are good and wise, v.14. (Lev. 19:18). The Laws do not get Israel to obey them.
- 2. Good news is Jesus fulfills law on our behalf, and now lives in us through the Holy Spirit., vv. 5-6
- Do not live life by the flesh (vv.19-21). It destroys lives and relationships. The law prohibits them, but Jesus puts them to death on the cross
- 4. Live life by the Holy Spirit (your new teacher and guide) whose life becomes ours (vv. 22-26).

A Closer Look How Did It Start?

Gospel Mandate: Live Life by the Holy Spirit

Chapter 6 In this chapter, Paul describes two ministries the Spirit-led believer participates in

- 1. Bearing Burdens, vv.1-5
- ➤ The law is not interested in bearing burdens. It adds to the burdens of others (Acts 15:10)
- The Spirit-led believer demands more of himself than he does of others – that he might be able to help others
- 2. Blessings' Sharing, vv. 6-10
- What we do with material things is an evidence of how we value spiritual things

For Paul (in this letter)

- The requirement for Christians to be Torah observant is pointless, going back to slavery.
- What matters is God's new family full of faith in Jesus, love God and others in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Closer Look

How Did It Start?

Gospel Model: Living in Love Chapter 6
In this chapter, Paul describes two ministries the Spirit-led believer participates in

- 1. Bearing Burdens, vv.1-5
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This is Paul's Letter of Good News
The Gospel
of
Grace

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