

**Galatians: *Be a Bear, not a Horseshoe Crab!***

**Part One - Galatians 1:1-2:19**

**“The Only Gospel”**

**October 29, 2023**

**Galatians 1:4**

The Lord Jesus Christ gave \_\_\_\_\_

For our \_\_\_\_\_

So that He might \_\_\_\_\_ us

From this \_\_\_\_\_

According to the \_\_\_\_\_ of our God and Father.

Whose idea is our plan of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

Who made the plan possible? \_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians 1:6**

different [*heteros* another of a different kind] gospel;

v 7 not another [*allos* another of the same kind]

*There is only one gospel.*

“Gospel” Gr *euangelion* “good news”

To “distort” the gospel is to turn it from “good news” into “bad news.”

What is the “good news?” 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

What does God ask us to do with the “good news?”

**Romans 1:16**

I am not ashamed of the \_\_\_\_\_

It is the power of God for \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

Who \_\_\_\_\_

To the \_\_\_\_\_ first

And also to the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Galatians 2:16**

“justified” = “declared righteous”

“faith”, “believed” = Gr *pisteuo* “to consider to be true”

*The Gr words for “faith” and “believe” are the same word, one a noun form, the other a verb.*

Nevertheless \_\_\_\_\_ that

A man is not \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

But through \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Even we have \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

That we may be \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ

And not by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Since by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

No flesh will be \_\_\_\_\_.

***Believe + anything = a different gospel***

Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey, in their book *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* (Zondervan, 1980) use the crayfish as an example of an animal whose skeleton is on the outside, as opposed to we humans, who have our skeletons on the inside. I like the comparison between the bear and the horseshoe crab better, due in part to each creature being fascinating in his/her own right. The creature with the exoskeleton is hard and rigid, and one knows immediately when he has come up against the hard shell of the crab. The bear, by comparison, is soft and pliable on the outside, but strong on the inside, because his strength does not come from his exterior, but from his internal skeleton. This is the difference between legalism and grace, whether in Salvation or Sanctification. Legalism requires the maintenance of an external structure in order to preserve the integrity of the system. Grace affords the

believer a strong internal structure that can withstand the failures of life, the temptations of the flesh, and the external insults that the world throws at us. Animals with their skeletons on the inside are capable of growing much larger in size, because the hard exoskeleton of the crab limits the size to which he can grow. It's more comfortable to bump into soft fur than hard chitin.