

Freedom!

Galatians Message Series Week 1

Galatians 1

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In order to understand Galatians we must answer four questions:

1. Who is the human author? Paul

- Paul was an apostle/missionary. (Galatians 1:1-2)

His first missionary journey was to the Roman province of Galatia—present-day Turkey. (Acts 13 and 14)

- Paul went from being a terrorist to being an evangelist. (Galatians 1:13-16, 23, 24; Acts 8:1-3)

“Paul is a classic example of a person who was sincere in his misdirected beliefs before becoming a Christian. Sincerity cannot bring you to salvation if you do not sincerely believe in the truth. You can be sincerely wrong. You can be consumed with religion and miss Jesus. Paul was in a desperate situation; we would perhaps look at him and say, ‘He is beyond the hope of the gospel.’”

David Platt and Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Galatians*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2014, p. 32.

2. What is the gospel? (Galatians 1:6-9)

- **The bad news: Everyone is sinful and deserving of God's wrath and judgment.**

But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will judge everyone according to what they have done.

Romans 2:5-6, NLT

- **The good news: Jesus gave Himself for our sins.**
(Galatians 1:3-4)

"Substitution is why the gospel is so revolutionary. Christ's death was not just a general sacrifice, but a substitutionary one. He did not merely buy us a 'second chance', giving us another opportunity to get life right and stay right with God. He did *all* we needed to do, but cannot do."

Timothy Keller, *Galatians For You*, The Good Book Company, Charlotte, NC, 2013, p. 16.

Salvation—being saved from God's wrath and judgment is a free gift.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9, ESV

We receive salvation through faith.

"It is not the level but the *object* of our faith that saves us."

Timothy Keller, *Galatians For You*, The Good Book Company, Charlotte, NC, 2013, p. 19.

- **The gospel is free!**

3. What is the distorted gospel? (Galatians 1:6-9)

- Judaizers were teaching the Gentiles that in order to be saved, you had to believe in Christ and follow the Old Testament Law.
- The Jerusalem Council addressed the teaching, “unless you are circumcised, you cannot be saved.”
- The gospel + _____? _____ = No gospel

“One of the accusations that always accompanies the free gospel of grace is, ‘Doesn’t that mean people can just live however they want?’ (See Rom. 6:15.) This is one of the dangers or risks of grace, namely, that some people will abuse grace and take it to mean that this free gift gives them license and freedom to live however they want. Paul addresses this error more specifically later in Galatians 5:13, but suffice it to say at this point, this is a misunderstanding of grace. First, grace is not cheap. The cost of grace is a cross, where Jesus gave Himself for our sins. Second, grace changes our lives. You can’t have this free grace without it changing your life. In 2:14 Paul confronts Peter and the believers with him for ‘deviating from the truth of the gospel’ by their hypocritical actions. Their actions were contradicting the grace they believed and proclaimed. Grace bring about change.”

David Platt and Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Galatians*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2014, p. 11.

4. What does it mean to be justified?

Come back next Sunday when Pastor John answers this question.

Takeaways:

1. I never thought I could be loved by God and have eternal life with Christ, but today I am accepting the free gift of salvation.

If this is you, email one of the staff of CBC today so that we can encourage you in your faith in Christ!

2. I've been trusting in being good enough, religious enough, or a prayer to get me into heaven, but now I am trusting in Jesus and the gospel.

If this is you, email one of the staff of CBC today so that we can encourage you in your faith in Christ!

3. I need to daily stand on the truth of the gospel, that I am accepted, loved, forgiven, and saved through Christ, not my performance.

“For us, Pauls’ is a story that shows us that God loves to save bad people. No one is beyond the reach of His amazing grace! This message only comes from God. The gospel is not good advice from man; it is good news from God. Rejoice in this gospel. In Christ, you find what your heart has always longed to find. No other love is this great. No other hope is this secure. No other forgiveness is this complete. No other joy is this deep. No other freedom is this liberating. No other peace is this sweet. All of it is found in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Do you know this Savior, the fountain of saving grace? Come and drink!”

David Platt and Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Galatians*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2014, p. 37.