

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
A Study of Galatians
“The Gospel of Grace and Peace”
Galatians 1:1-10
Drue Warner
9-8-24

Introduction

When it comes to faith and your spiritual life...

- Do you ever feel like you’re not doing enough, or doing it wrong, or that you just don’t know what you’re doing at all?
- Do you feel weary, worn out, or discouraged?

That’s why Paul wrote this letter to the church in Galatia and the church in Elixir Brewing! He wanted to encourage us to embrace the true gospel because that’s where we find real freedom in Christ.

- Jesus doesn’t just save us for eternity. He saves us for today!

What is Galatians?

- It’s a letter written by Paul to the churches in the region of Galatia between 45-58 A.D. Because this was written within 13-26 years of the life of Christ, it means that if there’s anything in this letter that is counter to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, it would have been clearly exposed and squashed. This letter wouldn’t exist and neither would the Christian Church, because everything in this letter is foundational to the Christian faith.
- Galatians is a “fork in the road” super important letter that completely impacted the direction of the gospel and the church, because **it addresses the question of what “*freedom in Christ*” really looks like. How free are we?**
 - Active righteousness of the Law (earned by works)
 - Passive righteousness of Christ (applied by faith)

About Galatia (see maps)

Galatia is not a city itself, but is a region (modern day Turkey) made up of multiple cities (Antioch YES, Iconium MAYBE, Lystra & Derbe NO) of which Paul traveled to and preached the gospel (per Acts 13-14). Interestingly, Galatians is named after the Celtic Gauls who settled in this region in the 3rd century.

Why did Paul write this letter?

The primary reason that Paul wrote this letter to the churches in Galatia is because the Judaizers (Jewish Christians) had come in and began preaching that faith in Christ was not enough, but that followers of Jesus (Gentiles and Jews) must continue obeying the Jewish ceremonial law (i.e. circumcision, keeping of feasts, etc.).

Paul was livid hot because he knew that Christ had come to free us from the demands of the law, not move us deeper into it.

Additionally, the Judaizers were undermining Paul's credibility and authority by saying that, because he wasn't one of the original 12 disciples, it didn't matter what he had to say. Thus, the necessity of Paul's letter to the Galatians.

SCRIPTURE (Galatians 1:1-10)

1 Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches in Galatia: **3 Grace and peace** to you from God our Father and **the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

9 As we have already said, so now I say again: **If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!** 10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? **If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.**

Paul's Calling

1 Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers and sisters with me,

- Paul wasn't self-appointed or people appointed. He was appointed by Jesus.
- Paul, formerly known as Saul, was not always a follower of Christ. In fact, Saul was one of the fiercest forces against Christianity that there was. He went from city to city, imprisoning, persecuting, and killing Christians. Until, on his way to Damascus, Jesus appeared directly to Saul and **upon this brief encounter, Saul's life was completely changed.** *The Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."* – Acts 9:15-16
 - How have you encountered Jesus? How has your life been impacted? Are you discovering His purposes for you on this earth?
- Saul became Paul and became one of God's primary messengers of the gospel, first to the Gentile (non-Jewish) people and also to the Jewish people. See Acts 7:54-58, Acts 8:1-3, Acts 9:1-19.

Grace & Peace

To the churches in Galatia: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

- **Paul's greeting in all 12 of his letters...** Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus
- **Grace** (Greek greeting) **and Peace** (Jewish greeting)
- **Grace (charis – kindness; hesed - lovingkindness) = God's heart**
 - Hesed (def): merciful love, loyal love, sure love, relentless love, enduring love, extravagant love, affectionate satisfaction, steadfast love, unfailing love, faithful love, covenant love, unswerving loyalty, everlasting kindness, generous mercy, compassion, persistent faithfulness, extravagant generosity, immense favor, loyal friendship, endlessly patient, sticking by, sticking with, big-heartedness, "unlimited, unconditional, unconditioned, and all-inclusive love for all creation" (from [Inexpressible: Hesed and the Mystery of God's Lovingkindness](#) by Michael Card)
- **Peace (eiréné – wholistic peace in every way; shalom)**
 - internal, interpersonal, communal, universal
- ***Grace is the root of the Gospel. Peace is the fruit.***

The Good News

the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

TRUE GOSPEL

- **Jesus + Nothing = Favor with God**
Salvation depends on God and His mercy, grace, forgiveness, love, and acceptance.
It's all Him.

FALSE GOSPEL

- **Good Works = Hopeful Favor with God (it's not even guaranteed)**
Salvation depends on us (our faithfulness, goodness, ability, good decisions, etc.)

In the Church today (Protestant and Catholic), we can easily fall into error when God's Word and the work of Jesus Christ are not enough for salvation.

- There are no other religious leaders whose authority equals the Word of God (*not the Pope, the pastor, or the worldwide evangelist*).
- There are no additional persons, practices, or rituals that will enhance our experience of salvation. Jesus is it. He is our ONLY sufficiency for salvation, and when we involve anyone or anything else, it diminishes all that He has done in "*dying for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).*" When Jesus from the cross said, "*It is finished,*" He meant it!

God's glory

5 to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

When we “add to” what Jesus has done with what we do or others have done, we rob God of the glory that is due to Him alone. “Adding to” also robs us of the depth of gratitude and love that we experience from knowing that *“the Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age (Galatians 1:4).”*

Astonished (Key Word in Galatians)

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all.

- **ASTONISHED:** Greek – *thaumazó* (to marvel, to wonder, to be astonished)
- Throughout scripture, people marveled / were astonished at Jesus
- Mark 6:6 – *“Jesus marveled at their unbelief.”* (In Nazareth... Isn't this Joseph's son?)
- Matthew 7:28-29 - *“The crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”*

- Here... Paul marvels / is astonished that the Galatians have deserted the gospel
 - It's like being given a full ride scholarship to college, but insisting on working 40 hours a week so that you could still pay the full amount, having a Disney “fast pass” but choosing to stand in the long lines, having a reliable vehicle, but choosing to walk to work; having been given an all-expenses paid month long vacation to the Hawaiian Islands, but foregoing that in order to spend a month in Valdosta, GA (on your own dime).

 - WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT??? ASTONISHED!!! ANGRY!!!

 - *It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance.* - Hebrews 6:4-6

False Teachers of a False Gospel

Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

- This is some of the strongest language in the entire New Testament.
 - Paul is incensed!!!

Paul's Motive

10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

- Paul's **fear** (love, respect) of God > fear of man
- *"I'm speaking harshly to you because I love you. I don't want to hurt you, but I love God more, so I'm willing to hurt you because you need to hear what I have to say."*

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- **The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important thing in the history of mankind.**
- *"The Good News is our rescue boat from the sinking Titanic of sin that will sink us straight to the depths of hell. By God's grace, we are carried from the sinking ship and placed into the security of our rescue boat that is Christ Jesus. In Him, we find peace because we are secure. And when we are in Him, we need not grab hold of our oars and row ourselves to safety. No! Our best efforts will get us nowhere! Instead, God hoists the sail that catches the wind of His Holy Spirit and carries us safely to shore, while we find our rest in all that Christ has done for us, not in what we do for ourselves."*
- **Are you rowing or are you resting?** The Gospel is not, "Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream." Jesus does the rowing. It's "Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily life is but a dream." We do the resting.
 - *"Cease your striving. Be still and know that I am God." - Psalm 46:10*
- **Jesus is the boat and we find our rest in Him.** It doesn't mean we do nothing. Resting is abandoning our best efforts and allowing God to accomplish His work, in us and through us.
- **God's grace and peace (and power) are not in the rowing, but in the resting.**

And THAT'S Good News!

SCRIPTURE & SUMMARY (Galatians 1:1-10)

PAUL'S CALLING

1 Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers and sisters with me,

GRACE & PEACE

To the churches in Galatia: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

THE GOOD NEWS

the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

GOD'S GLORY

5 to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

ASTONISHED

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all.

FALSE TEACHERS OF A FALSE GOSPEL

Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

PAUL'S MOTIVE

10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.