

The True Gospel

Galatians 1
Stephanie Fehr | April 26

Galatians 5:22-25 NLT

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Book of Galatians

- Earliest letter in the New Testament
- Author: Paul
- Genre: Personal letter

Book of Galatians

- Audience: "To the churches in Galatia" (v.2)
- Modern day Turkey, tribal people, Gentiles
- Acts 13: Paul went to Psidian Antioch - Galatia; successful missionary journey

Book of Galatians

- Tone: correction
- Issue: legalism
- Jewish Christians told Gentile Christ-followers they needed to follow the law
 - Ex: circumcision
 - Acts 15:1: ...'Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.'"

Book of Galatians

- Paul argues that the Gentile Christians did not need to follow the law because Jewish Christians are not saved by the law but "through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." (v.11)
- Paul is encouraging the Galatians to step into the freedom they have in Christ

Book of Galatians

- Theme: the multi-ethnic family of God
- 3:38: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"

Galatians 1

- vv.1-12 – Intro and correction
- vv.13-24 – Paul's story

1:1-12: Intro & correction

- v.1: "apostle – sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father."
- "sent one;" by Jesus Christ to spread the good news of who Jesus is
- Determined by Jesus, not humans

1:1-12: Intro & correction

- v.10: "Am I now trying to win the approval of human being, 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."
- Former people pleaser

1:1-12: Intro & correction

- vv.6-9: Paul is correcting something
 - The Galatians have abandoned him (v.6) and have followed a different gospel (v.7)
 - if someone should preach a gospel other than the one true one "let them be under God's curse!" (v.8,9)

1:13-24: Paul's story

13 For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. 14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

1:13-24: Paul's story

15 But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace,

But when God... was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles,

- Saul/Paul's conversion - Acts 9
- Calling: preach to the Gentiles

1:13-24: Paul's story

my immediate response was not to consult any human being. 17 I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

- Significant in the OT, treated poorly by Israel, unified in Christ

1:13-24: Paul's story

18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas (Peter)

and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother.

1:13-24: Paul's story

20 I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

21 Then I went to Syria and Cilicia

- More Gentile areas

1:13-24: Paul's story

22 I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. 23 They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

24 And they praised God because of me.

- Paul's conversion brings glory to God

1:13-24: Paul's story

- "the worst of sinners" through whom "Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:16)
- "a thorn" in his flesh that keeps him weak "so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Corinthians 12:7, 9)

Takeaway

- We can and should share our faith story
- We should be able to articulate who Jesus is to us and why we love Jesus

Takeaway

- "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25)
- Jesus changed my life!
- "When we share Jesus, we are not trying to be coercive, proselytizing, or acting like a sales person. We are sharing how God brought joy, peace, healing, love and wholeness to our lives through Jesus Christ." - Nijay Gupta

Takeaway

- Share our story - "I was blind but now I see" - "Jesus changed my life" - why we love and follow Jesus