

Sermon #2: Galatians Series

BREAKING THE ICE

Share a time when you felt pressured to change your opinion, your story, or your actions just to please someone else or to fit in with a group. How did that pressure affect your decision-making?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage: Galatians 1:1–10

1. Quickly review verses 3-4.
 - a. How does Paul describe the work of Jesus Christ?
 - b. What was the specific purpose of Jesus “giving Himself”?
 - c. Whose will was this work according to?
2. According to vs 6-7, what have the Galatians done "so quickly," and how does Paul describe the different gospel they are turning to?
3. What warning does Paul give in vs 8-9 regarding anyone, even himself or an angel, who preaches a gospel contrary to the one they received?
 - a. How would you characterize the strength of this warning?
 - b. What does this tell you about the importance of teaching and understanding the biblical view of the gospel?
4. How would you summarize the gospel based on the following passages (Gal 1:4; 1 Cor 15:1-4; 2 Cor 5:21; Rom 3:23-24)
[Leaders, on the back of this page we provided a summary of the gospel]
5. In verse 10, Paul contrasts two motivations. What are they, and why does he argue that they are mutually exclusive?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

In this passage, Jesus is not presented as a teacher to learn from, nor an example to be followed, but as the Divine Rescuer. Paul declares that Jesus “gave Himself for our sins” specifically to “rescue us from the present evil age.” If righteousness (a right standing with God) could be gained through other means, Christ’s death would be unnecessary.

- How does viewing Jesus as a "Rescuer" who did for you what you could not do for yourself change how you approach your relationship with God?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. In what ways are we tempted today to distort the gospel by adding cultural or social requirements to it (e.g., political views, specific behaviors, traditions)?
2. Paul uses the strongest possible language ("eternally condemned" or *anathema*) for those who distort the gospel. How do we neglect to take the purity of the gospel this seriously today?
3. Paul implies that seeking to please people is one motivation for compromising the gospel. In what situations are you tempted to please people rather than remain faithful to the gospel?
4. How might "extra conditions" we put on the gospel impact how our church is perceived by those who don't currently trust Jesus Christ?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him."

- 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will, it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these truths in our own strength, it becomes legalistic obedience. But when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational and glorifies Him.

- Share one specific application from today's lesson you would like to see transformed in your life. Take time to pray that God would transform you as you trust Him in this area.

Summary of the gospel

The gospel is the divinely revealed "good news" of God's powerful deliverance through Jesus Christ. Christ "gave Himself for our sins," according to God's will, to "rescue us from this present evil age" through His death and resurrection, redeeming us from the law's curse.

Specifically, justification is by grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, not by adherence to the law or human effort. Adding human requirements perverts the gospel and negates Christ's sacrifice.

Through this message, believers are adopted as God's heirs, receive the Holy Spirit, become a new creation, and are freed from sin. The gospel is universal, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham by offering salvation to both Jews and Gentiles solely through faith.