

INTRODUCTION TO GALATIANS

Galatians is:

- "The Magna Carta of Christian Liberty," the prime teaching on freedom in Christ.
- It sounded an alarm for the Galatians, to wake up to unbiblical teaching.
- Used by the Holy Spirit to wake up Luther that led to the Reformation.

Main point of the book of GALATIANS: We are saved by grace through faith, and faith alone.

HOW TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF GOD - GALATIANS 1:1-5

1 Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), 2 and all the brethren who are with me, 3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. To the churches of Galatia:

Christ gave Himself for our sins AND to save us from this evil age.

The true gospel: It is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and by this alone, one is saved. It is not by any work that you can do or need to do with accomplish it, enhance it or even maintain it. No rules, no traditions, no ceremonies—nothing but faith alone.

Important Point: But Paul's point is that they have already come to God through faith, they already have the Holy Spirit within them, and they already have the ability to experience the power of God, right there and now.

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **Ephesians 1:13**

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. **Ephesians 3:20-21**

Question: Are you aware that there are people who teach gospel faith right, and there are people who teach gospel faith wrong?

Even so-called Bible scholars and teachers, pastors and YouTubers can get it wrong. The gospel wrong is when people add something or take away something from the gospel. Thus modifying the gospel which no longer accurately teaches how we can know and experience God.

Application: Be eager to protect our flock with "gospel faith right" teachers.

HOW TO HAVE FAITH LEADS TO GOD'S GLORY - GALATIANS 1:6-9

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Important Point: Salvation is by faith. Jesus Christ is the only way anyone can be saved from sin and the power of this evil age!

Question: Do you know what happens when there is a perversion of the gospel? When something is added or taken away or if there is a twisting of the gospel?

Gospel perversions ROB Jesus of HIS GLORY!

You get none of the fruits or gifts of the Spirit with a false gospel. But don't go to Jesus for anything more than to have Him!

QUESTION: Do you desire to embrace the true gospel? And do each one of us want to reach one, to teach one to reach one, with the gospel that says by faith alone, and that it shall ring for each and every generation after us—to the glory of God?

Application: We must desire Biblical accuracy, both as teachers and as church members.

Are there any "got the gospel wrong" teachers in your library? They gotta go!

HOW TO AIM TO PLEASE GOD - GALATIANS 1:10-16

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. 11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond

measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles…

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads." **Acts 26:14**

Paul experienced the power of God in the past as a non-believer, yet still approved of the martyrdom of his own Christian brother, Stephen.

There is an evil power that ensnares us when there is an opportunity to please man, impress them, or not to be laughed at by them. We have two choices: please God or please man.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. **Hebrews 11:6**

Question: Are you a Saul or a Paul - a Paul without faith, that is a Saul who murdered to please his friends or a new creation Paul - the man born again by faith, who pleases God?

Application: The application is that we reflect upon Paul's experience - this is what he is talking about, and examine our motives - in everything we do. We have to ask ourselves, are we motivated to please God, or are we motivated by our desire to please man. Is there something in your life RIGHT NOW, that you need to please God with and not someone else?

CONCLUSION

WE MUST KEEP RINGING THIS BELL OF TRUTH THAT SALVATION IS BY FAITH ALONE.

Salvation from this evil age and to have a relationship with God and receive His benefits, this is found only by faith in Jesus Christ, this happens only by the grace of God to the glory of God.

Do you want to be freed from your sins and free from this evil age? Do you want to have God and the power of His benefits? Would you rather be a God pleaser than a people pleaser?

All you need is faith in Jesus Christ. Believe that his death makes it possible. Make Jesus your Lord and Savior.

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
October 22 & 23, 2022

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