



GALATIANS 1:1-10

October 13, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: GALATIANS 1:1-10

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[a] 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.

FIRST THOUGHTS

False Teachers—the church has always had to be careful of those who would distort the truth. False teachers have attempted to sway Christians since the church was founded. As we begin our study of the Book of Galatians, it's important we understand the role false teachers were playing in the church there. And although we may not have the same false teachers or teachings today, we need to know how to recognize them.

- How do each of these false gospels differ from the true gospel? What is the temptation of each one?
 - Prosperity Gospel—God wants you to be healthy, wealthy, and happy.
 - Legalism—Christianity is about following God's rules.
 - Universalism—Jesus is one of many paths to God.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

APPOINTED BY GOD THROUGH HIS GRACE

> Read Galatians 1:1-5

- This letter is written to churches that Paul had started so why do you think he begins by asserting his credentials as an apostle?
- What are the essential elements of the gospel story of Jesus that we see in v. 3-4? Why do we need to be reminded of these from time to time?
- In v.3-4, what role does God the Father play in these verses? What role does Jesus Christ play in these verses? What about us, what is our role in this process of salvation?

DISTORTED BY SOME

> Read Galatians 1:6-10

- How would you feel if your mentor told you he was astonished you were abandoning what he had taught you?
- Why did Paul emphasize that the gospel is grace-based salvation and not works-based? Why is a relationship with God based on the good things we do attractive to us?
- Why is holding on to the purity and truthfulness of the gospel so important to Paul? How important does it seem to you today?

- How do we test teaching to make sure it is true? Wouldn't a teaching delivered by an angel be enough for us to believe it?
- In what ways are you tempted to live for the approval of people rather than God? What effect does this have on your life?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

During the series we did on Judges several months ago, Pastor J. D. Greear calls the gospel plus anything else "Hot Dog Christianity". By that he means it's not real meat, but a little bit of meat mixed with a lot of fillers. Think about your understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ—that God saves you solely based on what Jesus has done on the cross. Have you allowed any fillers to creep in? Things like:

- God loves me because I do what pleases him.
- I may have been saved by grace, but each day it's my own strength that allows me to live a Christian life.
- I can earn God's blessings.

Personal Challenge: Today we have seen how important the purity of the gospel was to Paul. How important is it to you? Ask God to help you see where you have traded the truth of Jesus for a lie from someone else. Ask him to help you understand the gospel Paul is teaching in these verses. Ask him to help you represent that gospel to those around you.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read Galatians 2:11-21. Galatians 2:20 is one of the best verses in this book to memorize.
- How does the grace of God help us to crucify our old way of living?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

13th – Nehemiah 9-10; Acts 2 | **14th** – Nehemiah 11-12; Psalm 1; Acts 3 | **15th** – Nehemiah 13; Malachi 1, 2; Acts 4 | **16th** – Malachi 3-4; Psalm 148; Acts 5 | **17th** – Job 1-2; Acts 6-7 | **18th** – Job 3-4; Acts 8-9 | **19th** – Job 5; Psalm 108; Acts 10-11

Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE
CHANGED BY HIM IN A
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR
THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.
CREATE COMMUNITY.
MAKE DISCIPLES.