

Galatians: Christ Has Set Us Free
Lesson 1 “The True Gospel”

I. Introduction - I am excited to begin teaching through the book of *Galatians* tonight. I’ve wanted to teach through for a long time as it is my second favorite book of the Bible.

A. Paul wrote this book to give an revelation of grace and what the true gospel is.

1. He wrote *Galatians* in 51 A.D. in response to a group of religious people known as the Judaizers. This was a faction of Jewish Christians that believed the Mosaic law was binding on Christians.
2. The Judaizers came into Galatia after Paul founded the church there in 48 A.D. The theme of their message was “Yes, you are saved by grace, but you need to keep the 10 commandments, get circumcised, keep the feast days, etc. It was Jesus plus! Paul wrote to counter this message.
3. Say this with me, **Jesus plus anything equals nothing. Jesus plus nothing equals everything!**

B. How is this applicable today?

1. You might be a legalist if examples. Many people in the church struggle with these issues today which are rooted in legalism. Defined as Do good to get good.
2. Spiritual Greenhouse - The church is called to be a spiritual greenhouse that helps Christians grow and mature the same way a greenhouse helps plants grow.
 - a. One of the major ways people grow is through eating healthy nutrients. Legalism is like the diet coke. People drink it because they think its healthier, but nutritionists tell us its worse for us than regular coke.
 - b. Welsh Revival Example - 100,000 people saved in one year. All the churches in Wales were filled (even though Evan Roberts wasn’t in all of them). Bars closed, they laid off cops because their was so little crime. People began to go to church every night for a year and a half.
 - i. Revival ended because Roberts grew disillusioned if he felt like people weren’t serious enough, had to much sin in their lives, weren’t going to church enough, etc.
 - ii. Wasn’t strong doctrinally and became legalistic toward himself and others.
3. In this series we are going to study how a revelation of grace is not a license to sin. It is an invitation to an ongoing in encounter that transforms us effortlessly.
 - a. It is the key to living out the gospel before people consistently.
 - b. Arthur Meintjes story about Christians living with mental illness because of legalism. They get free from legalism and their mental illness leaves.

II. The True Gospel

A. Galatians 1:1-10

1. **Verses 1-2** Paul is writing to the churches in Galatian. He identifies as an apostle (means sent one). Apostles (ambassadors) don't represent themselves, they represent someone else - Jesus. Law focuses on self, grace focuses on Jesus.
2. **Verse 3** Do you know why most people don't hear God? They aren't on the right frequency. Jesus is saying grace and peace and they are expecting something else (law, judgment, sinner, etc.)
3. **Verse 4-5** Jesus came to deliver us from this present evil age. The Jews considered the present evil age as the age where the Gentiles ruled over the Jews. The future age would be the reign of the Messiah. The Jews did not believe the Messiah had come yet and Paul was saying this age had already begun.
 - a. Paul was saying they are free right now and Rome doesn't have to be overthrown to be free.
 - b. Most importantly, he was saying to the Jews they are free from the law.
4. **Verses 6** Turning from grace to another gospel. What's the other gospel? It's not Islam, Buddhism, or something else. It is against legalistic Christianity.
5. **Verse 7** Legalism perverts the gospel of Christ. That's a strong word. Would you want to come to this church if you heard I was a pervert? Why would you sit under spiritual perversion?
6. **Verses 8-9** Paul is so passionate about what He is saying that He says an angel that teaches something different or a minister that introduces concepts of legalism needs to be accursed. That's strong words! **Galatians 3:1 What is the curse of the law? No one can keep it. Trying to be right with God, earn answered prayers, earn healing, earn favor, etc by our good deeds brings us under a curse.**
7. **Verse 10** Paul wasn't a man pleaser. His goal was to please Jesus! We must draw our worth from Jesus, not men - when we draw our worth from being a man pleaser that is the same spirit as legalism. Takes our trust from Jesus.

III. Conclusion - Tonight we studied the true gospel. The true gospel is 100% Jesus and no additives. He doesn't need our help, He needs our surrender. Pray for our surrender so we can rest in His goodness!

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Call Up Prayer

You Might Be A Legalist If

1. If you believe there is a sin you think God cannot forgive, you might be a legalist.
2. If you believe there is a limit to the grace of God, you might be a legalist.
3. If you believe that God's blessings are reserved only for the obedient, you might be a legalist.
4. If you believe that certain behaviors disqualify a person from joining God's family, you might be a legalist.
5. If you believe that the presence of ongoing sin in a person's life causes them to lose their eternal life, you might be a legalist.
6. If you believe that the presence of ongoing sin in a person's life proves that they never had eternal life in the first place, you might be a legalist.
7. If you believe you have to do certain religious rituals to make God happy, you might be a legalist.
8. If you believe that God loves us more if we obey Him more, you might be a legalist.
9. If you believe that all Christians must believe and act like you do, you might be a legalist.
10. If you tithe down to the last penny, yet struggle with generosity, you might be a legalist.
11. If you keep records of your service to God, you might be a legalist.
12. If you apply the sermons you hear to someone else, you might be a legalist.
13. If you have a hard time forgiving others you might be a legalist.

