

WORSHIP

Suggested worship songs: This is Amazing Grace, What He's Done, Nothing But the Blood, Glory Belongs

WELCOME

Have you or someone you know, ever been scammed or misled by an AI-generated message on social media?

WORD

GALATIANS 1:1-10 (Read the rest of the chapter)

Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), ² and all the brethren who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen.

⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; ⁷ which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! ⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Our new series on the book of Galatians, “NO OTHER GOSPEL” has to do with foundational truth that emphasizes the Gospel of Grace. Chapters 1-4 is about DOCTRINE (belief), while Chapters 5-6 talks about our DUTY (behavior). Whether you like it or not, all of us are theologians – the only question is, are we good ones or not? What enters your mind when you think of God? Whatever you believe affects your behavior. The main point of chapter 1 is DON’T DISTORT THE GOSPEL.

Paul introduced himself as an apostle, establishing his authority because he was not sent by men but by Jesus Christ and God the Father (**Galatians 1:1**). An apostle is somebody “sent out”. There were qualifications that the disciples of Jesus came up with so they can find the substitute for Judas (**Acts 1:21**) – someone who had that close encounter with Jesus – during His baptism, ministry, death, and resurrection. Paul was not around at that time, but Paul explains that God appeared to him (**1 Corinthians 15:8-9**). Then Paul greets the churches in Galatia, the audience of his letter. He greets them with grace and peace and presents the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ who gave Himself for our sins, rescued us from the present evil age, and that He followed the will of God the Father (**Galatians 1:3-5**).

THE TRUE GOSPEL CANNOT BE CHANGED

Paul begins by saying that he was amazed (shocked) because it was less than 20 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, yet there were already distortions in the gospel– a different gospel is being shared and being embraced by the people (**Galatians 1:6-7**). The word “gospel” is from the Greek word *euangelio* – the good news. What is the good news based on the Bible? It is that Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for our sins. Paul stated that even if they or an angel or any man would preach a different gospel, he should be accursed (Gk. anathema) – and be doomed to hell (**Galatians 1:8-9**). Why did he say this? Because nobody can change the gospel! But there was a problem: in **Acts 15:1 and 5**, we see that there were people adding certain requirements to salvation. For example, the ones from Judaism were adding law observance (ex. circumcision) as necessary to secure salvation. This is distorting the gospel! Paul explains that man is not justified by the works of the law, but through faith in Christ Jesus (**Galatians 2:16**). The gospel has to do with JUSTIFICATION – you are declared NOT GUILTY. This happens not because you obey the Law, but because you believed by faith in Christ Jesus. Paul wrote that if we get to heaven by the means of the Law, then Jesus died needlessly (**Galatians 2:21**).

THE TRUE GOSPEL IS FROM GOD

Paul wanted the Galatians to understand that the gospel he preached to them was not from man – but he has received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ (**Galatians 1:11-12**). Paul started sharing his testimony – what he was like before he encountered Jesus (**Galatians 1:12-14**). He was zealous for ancestral traditions (Judaism). **Verses 15-16** shows the shift in his life – God reached out and set him apart for a purpose even before he was born – and allowed for him to encounter Jesus Christ so he could preach about Him among

the Gentiles. This was given directly by God to Paul, a gracious mission extended to him who once persecuted Christians. In the succeeding verses, Paul explained that he went away to Arabia, and after three years, went to Jerusalem and spent time with Cephas (Peter). **Verses 19-21** is where Paul mentions James (brother of Christ) – the leader of the Jerusalem church. Then Paul went to Syria and Cilicia.

Paul reminded the Corinthians too about the gospel (**1 Corinthians 15:1-8**). The gospel is about Christ’s death for our sins, that He was buried, the resurrection of Jesus, and how Jesus appeared to many individuals who were still alive during the time this epistle was written by Paul! The resurrection is important because it proves that Jesus is who He claims to be, it validates the true gospel, it guarantees our forgiveness and salvation, it assures us of life after death, and it proves our faith is grounded on history and not myth. John Lennox, a famous professor and mathematician, said “I believe Jesus rose from the dead because the historical evidence makes the resurrection the only explanation that fits the facts”.

Paul also wrote that it is by GRACE that we have been saved, we do not deserve it but were blessed with it, with full certainty, and that is through faith, and definitely not as a result of works so that no one will boast (**Ephesians 2:8-10**). How do we differentiate the true gospel from the distorted gospels?

True Gospel	Distorted Gospel
Salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone	Salvation by faith in Christ <i>plus</i> good works
Christ’s finished work is sufficient	Christ’s work is not sufficient ; needs human effort
transformation	No transformation
Centered on Christ	Centered on man - legalism

Jude v.3-4 also communicates that we must contend earnestly for the faith, holding on to the true gospel. **Titus 2:11-12** emphasizes that grace was given to us, it should transform us and to live lives that please God. Paul was defending the true gospel for the pleasure of God, and not of men (**Galatians 1:10**). Do we stand for the true gospel in a way that points back to God?

THE TRUE GOSPEL TRANSFORMS

The gospel changes lives (**Romans 1:16**) and because of the transformation of Paul’s life, people glorified God (**Galatians 1:22-24**). That is our goal – that our lives, transformed by God’s forgiveness and grace, should point many others to Christ. Do you know the gospel? Do you have the evidence of the power of the gospel? Do you do what you can to spread the gospel to point many others to Him? May we live for the True Gospel, and may we never do anything that distorts its truth and its effects.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. What is the true gospel?
2. How do people today tend to distort the gospel?
3. How do you know what is the true gospel?
4. Why should you not change the true gospel?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who may believe a distorted gospel that is taught by religious cults, or false teachers. Do your part in sharing and defending the true gospel by your words and through your life.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God's Word.
- PRAY for the protection, safety and release of kidnapped American Christian missionary, Kevin, serving in Niger (West Africa). For God to turn the hearts of the kidnappers to repentance and salvation. Peace and comfort for Kevin's family.
- Pray for persecuted Christians in Sudan and Nigeria) --- many have been beheaded and murdered; earnestly seek God's intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God's word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- PRAISE God that the rest of the living Israeli hostages have been restored to their families safely! Continue to pray that even all the dead hostages will be returned to their families for burial.
- For Israel's war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory. For Jewish people worldwide who are experiencing a surge of antisemitism; may this lead them to the Messiah, Jesus as they turn to God for help and comfort.

- For protection of Iranian, Syrian and Lebanese Christians and other minorities, and freedom from oppression. Pray for the gospel to spread rapidly throughout their region.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.
- Typhoon victims in different parts of the Philippines. Seek God's mercy upon our land. May many more Filipinos turn to Jesus!

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God, and make disciples
- For elders, pastors, deacons, and families to become holy, humble, harmonious, happy, and heart-working)
- For ministries and church expansions worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain (MMRC)

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper and intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 1:8-9

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!