

Galatians - Are you Zealous for the Gospel?

April 5, 2020

Pastor Mark Turner

Galatians 1:1-9

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

A Surprising Start

- Most other letters of Paul start with a tone of thanksgiving
Phil 1:3-8; Col 1:3-8, 1 Cor 1:4-8, etc.
- Paul's tone is different as he starts this letter – incensed at different Gospel (those who turn to it; those who teach it)
- So what is wrong with trying to please God?
 - Issue: are you trying to earn merit or acting in gratitude
 - Gospel = Great Exchange 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 2:20-3:14

Gospel Basics

- Who We Are: We are separated from God by sin v4. We needed rescue so God sent Jesus as our deliverer.
- What Jesus Did: Jesus gave Himself for our sins v4. Substitutionary Atonement. Jesus' record was perfect so He paid for our sins AND gave us His perfect record. Don't just see Jesus as cleaning up your sins.
- What the Father Did: God SENT Jesus. God ACCEPTED Jesus' work v1 on the behalf of believers.
- Why the Father Did it: We didn't deserve this, it was by God's grace v3. That is why Gospel hard to accept for many - it is a gracious gift - so that God alone gets the glory v5.

Protecting the Gospel

- Paul is concerned about protecting the Gospel of Grace 6-7
- Calls anything else 'a different gospel - not that there is another'
- Paul wrote another letter: Ephesians 2:8-9 'faith... the gift from God'
- Beware other religions: clean yourself up or do this to be accepted
- TRUE Gospel: God provides Jesus as complete provision, you can't add your works to what Jesus has done!

Practical Gospel

- Constant battle for Gospel like Paul - Luther in Reformation...
- GOSPEL TRUTHS:
 - we are too sinful to contribute to our salvation (we are dead in our sins and need a complete rescue by God)
 - We are saved through faith in Jesus' work plus nothing else
- Beware of Distortions of Gospel
 - Sincerity of faith in whatever is the key - Problem: how can you know if sincere enough? Only faith in sure Christ is sufficient.
 - We must prove our faith by surrender – Problem: forgets that God's grace comes FIRST - we merely respond to it.
- Remember Gospel thinking: Who is God? What has He done? What is my Identity in Christ? How should I then live? V3-4; 1 Jn 3:1; Act 4:12
- Remember: because of Jesus, I now GET to live for God's glory!

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