

Galatians Study 1

Read Galatians 1:1-2:10

Galatians Overview: Read 1:1-5

1. Who is Paul? Read Acts 9:1-15

2. What do you think the word “gospel” means?

NOTE: “To a shameful degree, we Christians are morally indistinct from the world. Why? One reason is that we think piecemeal... we do not perceive reality from God’s perspective... What we really need is to be reeducated in reality, as it is interpreted for us by the gospel. We need to know who God really is. We need to find out who we really are. We need to understand what our root problem really is and what God’s merciful answer really is. And we need that new perception of reality to percolate deep down into our affections and desires, reorienting us radically and joyfully to a whole new way of life.”

3. Who are some of the people you seek approval from for various things you do?

4. What do we learn about the gospel message just from what Paul says in passing about it in 1:3-6?

5. In light of 1:6 and 2:3-5, what can we guess the opposing teaching (“different gospel”) to be?

Reflect and React:

“Paul says: ‘A different gospel... in reality is no gospel at all’ (Gal 1:6-7). Martin Luther says: ‘There is no middle ground between Christian righteousness and works-righteousness. If we say, as the circumcision party did: “you need Christ plus something else,” then you have not just diminished the gospel but eliminated it. For to add anything to Christ is to make him only an Example or a Helper but to make yourself Savior.”

6. What do you think, how do you react to this quote?

7. What does Paul teach in vs 1:6-10 about how we should think about:
~All truth-claims by teachers/philosophers

~Our own feelings and experiences

8. Why is he so uncompromising? How does he apply this standard even to himself?

9. What kinds of false teachings about God and the gospel are floating around today in our culture and even in churches?

10. What is Paul's past like (v 11-24)? How does that affect his understanding of the gospel and his life?

11. What about you? How does your past affect where you are on your spiritual journey now?

12. When have you worked hard on something, only to have it turn out to be in vain?

13. Why do you think Paul is concerned that his preaching to the Gentiles was "in vain" (v 2:2)?

14. What do you think Paul is talking about in v 2:4 when he mentions freedom versus slavery?