
Mission 119 Ministries

GALATIANS: THE GRACE GOSPEL UNDER ATTACK

LESSON 1: THE PERVERTED GRACE REPLACE

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BACKGROUND

- **Authored by the apostle Paul**
 - **Likely an early epistle written before the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15**
 - **Paul writes to local churches in the province of Galatia that he planted during his First Missionary Journey (A.D. 47-49) and likely write Galatians during that period**
 - **Those churches include Iconium, Lystra, Derbe**
 - **Circumstances of Galatians is that after Paul left, false teachers came that we call “Judaizers” and who presented a works “gospel” that mandated the practices of Judaism (like circumcision)**
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BACKGROUND

- **Three major divisions in the book**
 - **Chapters 1-2: Paul provides a defense of himself**
 - **Chapters 3-4: Paul provides a defense of the grace gospel**
 - **Chapters 5-6: Paul makes specific application to the Galatians**
 - **Key issues in Galatians**
 - **Defending the grace gospel and rejecting performance “gospels”**
 - **Christian liberty / bondage**
 - **Paul displays a high view of the Word of God**
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SALUTATION

- **Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)****2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,**
 - **Paul defends his apostleship - someone set aside by God and given authority (Matthew 10:1-2; Acts 9:15-16)**
 - **Father “raised [Jesus] from the dead” — God is perfectly satisfied with the sacrifice — it is finished, nothing to add**
 - **The performance gospel folks say faith plus...**
 - **“all the brethren” — they are in agreement with Paul**
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SALUTATION

- **Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: 5 To whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.**
 - **Jesus “gave himself for our sins” to “deliver us from this present evil world” (or evil age) to the world to come**
 - **Jesus “gave himself” means we can add nothing!**
 - **The present evil age would pervert the gospel so that the “good news” is at best contingent good news**
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PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL

- **Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.**
 - **“marvel...so soon removed” — Paul could not get over how they deserted the truth so quickly, heresy perverts rapidly**
 - **“removed from him” — heresy turns you from a person (here the Father) while usually promising to do the opposite**
 - **“called you into the grace of Christ” — gospel is an invitation to receive the “grace” (free gift) of the provision Christ made for sinners**
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PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL

- **Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.**
 - **“gospel of Christ” - content *and* faith**
 - **Content — see Gal. 1:1, 4; Acts 4:10-12; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Synoptics and John**
 - **Faith — see Acts 16:30-31**
 - **“pervert [distort] the gospel of Christ”**
 - **Verse 6 “another” (heteros) of a different sort**
 - **Verse 7 “another” (allos) of the same sort, a false gospel**
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PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL

- **Performance gospel folks do not challenge the “content” but always challenge the “faith”**
 - **Will not let grace be grace and faith be faith**
 - **“faith” is not enough, faith plus... (repent of sins, keeping the Law, baptism, prayer, perseverance)**
 - **Say “faith” is enough but redefine “faith” to include some sort of commitment of obedience or to the Lordship of Christ**
 - **Exchanges grace for bondage, the performance trap, and no assurance**
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PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL

- **Being a Pharisee comes naturally to us and grace does not**
 - **So what is being pushed as spiritual is in fact of the flesh**
 - **Performance gospel folks attack the absurdity of grace reasoning from their presuppositions and not the Text**
 - **Surely you cannot be a Christian and do that...**
 - **Pejorative phrases like “easy believism” (while they cannot believe) and “cheap grace” (God’s riches at Christ’s expense)**
 - **Strawman — just mental assent to the facts, sin has no consequences**
 - **But their Statement of Faith says “by grace through faith alone in Christ alone”... — have to ask pointed questions!**
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PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL

- **Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**
 - **Verse 8 is hypothetical, verse 9 is actual**
 - **“accursed” - anathema, implied outcome of the curse is condemnation to hell**
 - **A pure gospel is serious business**
 - **False gospels don't save**
 - **False gospels put Christians in bondage**
 - **Is it a big deal? Aren't we just taking the gospel too seriously?**
 - **If this is not a Biblical issue to take a stand for, NO ISSUE IS!**
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PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL

- **Performance gospels do not save — for the non-Christian, the performance gospel is not good news at all**
 - **For the Christian who later adopts the performance gospel, the result is always bondage (faith plus do, faith plus don't) and not liberty or growth**
 - **But how shall I live? Paul gets to that in chapter 5 — walk in the Spirit**
 - **Performance gospels provide no assurance**
 - **Performance gospels promotes doubt and pride**
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