

Slides for Galatians 1:1-10

Scripture Reading: **SLIDE**

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers 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 to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble 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 the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

SLIDE

God's gospel of grace, centered on Christ's self-giving sacrifice, can never be altered or supplemented or replaced with an *imitation* gospel.

SLIDE

Faith + Lawkeeping = Justification by God. FALSE!

SLIDE

Luke 18:9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and

give a tenth of all I get.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

SLIDE

You need God’s grace + his material blessings of health and wealth in order to be right with God. FALSE!

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Paul says in v. 4, Jesus “gave himself for our sins to deliver us from this present evil age.” Not necessarily from any *discomfort* while we continue to live in the present evil age.

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God’s grace + man’s approval = gospel effectiveness. FALSE!

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Paul speaks against approval-based Christianity in v. 10, “Am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?”

SLIDE

My faith in Christ + my cultural alignment (or my political loyalties) = true belonging and acceptance with God.

SLIDE

Paul might write to us: v. 6 “I am astonished that you [American Christians] are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a

different gospel [turning to something else to provide true belonging]—not that there is another gospel...”

SLIDE

Our human problem: God’s free, unearned and undeserved grace feels insufficient to our sinful human nature that is always seeking to be in control and gain approval.

SLIDE

When I sin, what do I instinctively run toward?

- a. Shame and self-punishment?
- b. Extra religious effort?
- c. Hiding from God or others?
- d. Making a confident appeal to Christ’s finished work for me on the cross?

SLIDE

What makes me feel spiritually secure?

- a. When I have a great devotional life one week?
- b. When I’ve been very productive in ministry?
- c. When others affirm me as a wonderful servant of the Lord?
- d. When I recognize Christ alone as my perfect substitute?

SLIDE

What makes me angry with other Christians?

- a. Their moral failure?
- b. Their theological errors?
- c. Their lack of discipline or their immaturity?
- d. Their unwillingness to see things as I see them?

SLIDE

The Gospel Solution to our problem: Believing that Jesus rescues us from our flesh and sin's curse through his sufficient, self-giving sacrifice that cannot be supplemented.

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8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

SLIDE

Joshua 6:15 On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. 16 And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. 17 And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction [shall be anathema]. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

SLIDE

What should be your response? Continually believe this wonderful good news of the gospel so that it frees you to seek God's approval alone and helps you to love others well.