

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Galatians 1:1-5--August 27th, 2023

Sermon Recap:

Grace to You

The issue facing the Galatian church is the same issue facing the Church today: the exclusivity of the gospel. The Church is faced with the temptation to modify or dilute the Gospel, either by addition or subtraction. Paul writes to confront this issue.

I. The Messenger

a. The Man

- Though personally under attack, Paul does not defend himself. He only defends his credentials and authority as a messenger commissioned by Christ (apostleship).

b. His Authority

- Having seen and been commissioned by the risen Lord Jesus, Paul is and possess all the authority of an apostle.
- The authority of his message is not founded upon credentials given to him by men, but by Jesus Christ.
- Paul knows that, ultimately, it is not him, but the gospel that possesses the power and authority to save.

II. The Message

Paul confronts the attack on the Gospel by presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

a. It's Blessing

- The Gospel is a manifestation of grace, as God shows unmerited love to the unworthy.
- This grace brings peace as it reconciles enemies (God and man) who are separated by sin.

b. It's Heart

- The Gospel is not what we do, but what has been done for us.
- Peace was purchased as Jesus willingly gave himself as a sacrificial love offering.
- He gave himself as a substitute "for our sins." He took the wrath of God in our stead.
- The substitute was man to deliver us from the "present evil age," that is the age of this fallen, groaning world and deliver us to freedom in the age to come.

c. It's Goal

- The glory of God is at stake if we get the Gospel wrong.
- God is ultimately glorified in the grace shown and peace made through the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ.
- If we attempt to insert ourselves into the Gospel, we are attempting to steal God's glory for ourselves.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the Gospel?
- In what ways do you see the Gospel misconstrued today?
- Where does the authority of the message and messenger originate?
- What is significant about the tone that Paul uses in this letter? What is he passionate about?
- What can we learn from Paul's anger?
- What is a stake if the Gospel is distorted?
- How does the Gospel glorify God?

Application:

- How has the Gospel impacted your life?
- Is your life characterized by grace and peace?
- What are you passionate about? How can you personally learn from Paul's reaction to the attack on the Gospel?
- Reflecting on your own testimony, how has the proclamation, reject/acceptance/submission of the Gospel glorified God?
- Are there any ways that you are currently attempting to rob God of that glory? How can you, personally, repent of that and trust in the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone?

