



BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2024 – WEEK 1

Galatians 1: The Gospel Under Siege

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—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

– Galatians 1:6-7 ESV

- **How did we get here?**

- Why the book of Galatians?
- There is a method to my madness

Genesis Mankind’s creation & fall
Abraham’s call

Exodus Israel’s creation & Captivity
God’s deliverance

Hebrews Jesus’ superiority
Salvation’s incomparability

Galatians The gospel’s singularity
Faith’s necessity

Job ...how can a man be in the right before God? – Job 9:2 ESV

How then can a man be just before God? – Job 25:4 BSB

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. – Genesis 6:5 ESV

Then the Lord said, “I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them.” – Exodus 32:9-10 NLT

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the

word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance. – Hebrews 4:4-6 ESV

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- **The gospel**

The Philippian jailer: *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” – Acts 16:30 ESV*

- This is the point of the entire letter
 - “the gospel” – 23x
 - “faith” – 19x
 - “promise” – 9x
 - “the truth” – 2x

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- A **different** gospel
 - different – **eteros** – another, one not of the same nature
 - The Galatians were guilty of **desertion**
metatithēmi – to desert from one person or thing to another
 - They were **abandoning** the gospel
- A **distorted** gospel
 - distorted – **metastrephō** – to pervert, turn one thing into another, transmute, transform, disfigure
 - The gospel was being subtly **altered**
 - This “other” gospel was no gospel at all
 - It was a **counterfeit gospel**

“...the greatest threat to Christianity may not be modern culture, blatant heresies, or the rise of Islam. If the seeds of destruction can come from the counterfeit, could it be such seeds are slowly being planted through the counterfeit gospels within the church? All Christians everywhere must realize that we are at war. Our battle is not against ‘flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers...of this [present] age.’ Awareness of the battle can help alert us to the counterfeit gospels that the Enemy wishes to spread into our churches, counterfeits that will destabilize us, confuse us, and cause us to lose confidence in the biblical gospel.” – Trevin Wax, *Counterfeit Gospels: Rediscovering the Good News in a World of Lost Hope*

- **What exactly is the gospel?**
euangelion – good news, good tidings

- Occurs 93x in the Bible
- The gospel is the good news concerning Christ and the way of salvation
- Remember the question of the Philippian jailer: “What must I do to be saved?”(Acts 16:30)
- Paul’s answer: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved...” (Acts 16:31)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. – Romans 1:16 ESV

- But believe what?
 - The content of our belief matters
 - We are not free to believe anything
 - Belief alone is not enough

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. – James 2:19 NLT

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. – 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 NLT

- The good news that saves you

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NLT

- Belief in His death, burial, and resurrection
- His saving work, not our own

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. – Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT

- **A much-needed wakeup call**

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. – Galatians 1:1-5 ESV

- The gospel was under attack – from the inside
- A counterfeit gospel was being promoted
- Paul’s gospel was being undermined
- His apostleship was being questioned
- Christ’s all-sufficient sacrifice was being denied
- The Galatians were being deceived

- **A bit of background**

- It all began on Paul’s 1st mission trip (47-48 AD)
- He and Barnabas visited Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe
- They faithfully preached the gospel
- But they also encountered opposition
- Acts 13:12-14:23

“Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. Everyone who believes in him is made right in God’s sight—something the law of Moses could never do.” – Acts 13:38-39 NLT

But when some of the Jews saw the crowds, they were jealous; so they slandered Paul and argued against whatever he said. – Acts 13:45 NLT

Then the Jews stirred up the influential religious women and the leaders of the city, and they incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town. – Acts 13:50 NLT

Some of the Jews, however, spurned God’s message and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas....the people of the town were divided in their opinion about them. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. Then a mob of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders, decided to attack and stone them. – Acts 14:2, 4-5 NLT

Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead. But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. – Acts 14:19-20 NLT

After preaching the Good News in Derbe and making many disciples, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia, where they strengthened the believers. They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God. – Acts 14:22-22 NLT

- **The danger of a different gospel**

...not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 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. 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. – Galatians 1:7-9 ESV

- Paul is concerned about distorted gospels
“contrary” – other than, besides, in place of
- This is about far more than salvation
“What must I do to be saved?”
- This is about the **full gospel** message

Justification – How a sinner is made right with God

Sanctification – How a saint becomes more like Christ

Glorification – How sinful saints are made fully righteous

- Paul preached the whole gospel
 - o And it was all based on grace, not works
 - There was no place for human merit
 - Religious rule-keeping was pointless
 - Earning God’s favor was unnecessary
 - o Paul was deadly serious
 - He pronounced a curse on anyone who preached a contrary gospel

- **Not a man-made message**

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. – Galatians 1:11-12 ESV

- Paul was on a mission from God
- He had been called by God
- He had been commissioned by Jesus Christ
- He needed no human validation
- He was living proof of the gospel’s power

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. – Galatians 1:13-17 ESV

...people were saying, “The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!” And they praised God because of me. – Galatians 1:23-24 ESV

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. – Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT

- **Discussion questions**

Discuss whether the following statements are counterfeit gospels and, therefore, dangerous:

- Everyone gets saved in the end
- Repentance isn't necessary for salvation
- Fruitfulness isn't a necessary sign of faithfulness
- My sanctification is up to me
- You can lose your salvation
- God helps those who help themselves



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SUMMER SERIES 2024 – WEEK 2 HOMEWORK

WEEK 2 – Galatians 2: Just Faith = Justification

In this lesson we want to establish the historical context of the New Testament church and its internal struggle to reconcile the grace made possible in Christ and the more legalistic requirements found in the Mosaic Law. The battle between Paul and Peter provides a stark backdrop upon which to examine the truly remarkable nature of justification solely on the grounds of faith and God’s faithfulness. We must help our men recognize and resist the human tendency to resort to law-keeping rather than living in the grace provided by God through Jesus Christ.

- Read Galatians. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Now read pages 15-22 of Ken’s Devotional™ on Galatians.
- Go back and look at chapter 1, verses 11-24. Why do you think Paul took the time to tell his salvation story and what relevance does it have to the situation going on in Galatia?
- Read verses 1-10 of chapter 2. After 14 years of ministry, Paul makes a trip to Jerusalem. Describe what took place on this trip to the capital city and his visit with the apostles?

What does Paul accuse the “false brothers” of doing?

Who do you think these people are and what is so dangerous about their actions?

Why does Paul seem to diminish the importance of Peter, James, and John? Is he denying his need for their input?

- In verses 11-14, Paul describes a tense encounter he had with the apostle Peter in Antioch. What was the gist of their disagreement?

To get a better idea of why this situation was so disturbing to Paul, read Acts 10:9-36 to learn about an earlier episode in Peter’s life.

What did Peter learn from this experience?

Why were actions in Antioch seen as hypocrisy by Paul?

Now look at Acts 10:44-48. What happened when Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius and his household?

Why is this significant to the events in Antioch as described by Paul?

- Read Galatians 2:15-21. What are the main points that Paul makes in this section?

According to Paul, what is the only basis for having a saving relationship with Jesus Christ?

What were the “false brothers” offering as a more acceptable alternative and why was this “contrary” gospel so dangerous for the believers in Galatia?