**No Other Gospel**

**Galatians 1:1-10**

**Introduction:**

* **Author: The Apostle Paul wrote this letter about A.D. 48. The Galatians are believers in the churches of the southern region of the Roman province of Galatia. Paul is critical of his audience here.**
* **Theme: Christ’s death has brought in the age of the new covenant (3:23-26; 4:4-5, 24). People do not have to become Jews or follow the outward ceremonies of the Mosaic Law to be Christians (2:3, 11-12, 14; 4:10). To require these things denies the heart of the gospel, which is justification by faith alone and not keeping the “works of the law” (2:16). In this new age, Christians are to live in guidance and power of the Spirit (Ch’s. 5-6)**
* **Purpose: False Teachers have convinced the Galatians that they are required to be circumcised. The result is division within their church (5:15). Paul gives numerous reasons why they should return to the simple truth of the Gospel.**
* **Key Themes:**
  + **In his sin-bearing death, Christ is a substitute for all Christians. He brings them into a new realm of freedom and life (1:4; 2:20; 3:13).**
  + **The Gospel of Christ comes from God alone-not from any human source. Paul himself is a living example of this. His conversion to Christ and apostleship were not through human means. They came through direct revelation from Christ (1:1, 11-12, 15-20).**
  + **Salvation comes not by works of law by faith, which leads to justification (2:16)**
  + **To require circumcision and other Mosaic Laws as a supplement to faith is to fall back from a realm of grace and freedom and to come under the whole law and its curse, since perfect observance of the law is impossible (2:12-14, 16; 3:10; 4:10; 5:3).**
  + **Old Testament Scripture itself testifies to the truth of justification by faith (Gen 15:6; 2:4).**
  + **Believers have died with Christ to sin and therefore have renounced the flesh (5:24; 6:14).**
  + **The Spirit is the source of power and guidance in the Christian life. He produces love and faith in believers (5:6, 16, 18, 25).**
  + **The Christian life is one of pleasing Christ. This requires willingness to suffer persecution for the sake of his cross (1:10; 6:12, 14).**
* **Outline**
  + **Opening (1:1-9)**
  + **Indirect Appeal: Paul’s Ministry and the Gospel (1:10-2:21)**
  + **Direct Appeals to the Galatians (3:1-5:12)**
  + **Life in the Spirit and Love (5:13-6:10)**
  + **Final Warning (6:11-18)**

1. **Paul’s Authority Comes from God (vv. 1-5)**
   1. **Paul’s Apostleship (v. 1): Not from man but through Jesus Christ and God the Father.**
   2. **“all the brothers” (v. 2): Those who are with Paul agrees with the Gospel he proclaims.**
   3. **The Gospel of Grace (vv. 3-5): Salvation comes through grace and Christ’s sacrifice, not human effort.**
      1. **Grace: God’s unmerited Favor (v. 3)**
      2. **Peace: it is not just the absence of conflict. It echoes the OT concept of blessing, in which the person and community are well and whole in all aspects of life. Such blessing comes especially in a right relationship with God (v. 3)**
      3. **“gave himself for our sin” (v. 4): Christ’s saving work on the cross is central to this letter. Jesus saves Christians from their sins and sets them from slavery to this present evil age (3:22-26, 4:1-11)**
2. **A warning Against False Gospels (vv. 6-9)**
   1. **The Danger of Turning Away (v. 6): Some were abandoning the true gospel for a distorted version.**
   2. **“there are some who trouble you” (v. 7): Visiting preachers have taught them that circumcision and obedience to the whole law are essential to justification (4:17, 6:12-13)**
   3. **The Curse of False Teachers (vv. 8-9): Paul strongly warns against those preaching a different gospel, emphasizing that even angels and apostles must not change the gospel message.**
   4. **Jesus +Nothing=Everything**
   5. **The Opposite: Jesus+ Something=Nothing**
3. **Seeking God’s Approval, Not Man’s Approval (v. 10)**
   1. **Paul’s motivation: He seeks to please God, not people.**
   2. **Romans 2:29**
   3. **A Call for believers to stand firm in truth, even when facing opposition.**

**Conclusion and Application**

* **We have a call to remain faithful to the true gospel.**
* **We need to trust in Christ alone for salvation.**
* **We need to recognize and reject false teachings.**
* **Hold fast to the gospel of grace and not adding human requirements for salvation.**
* **Living to please God rather than seeking approval from people.**
* **In Others Words**
  + **We need to Define It. Centers on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the Good News of Jesus Christ dying and raising to save us from our sins to reconcile sinful man to the Holy God.**
  + **We must Defend the Gospel.**
  + **We need to Declare It.**
* **The Gospel is good news and our only hope. NO OTHER!**
* **Jesus+ Nothing=Everything**