

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON GALATIANS 1:1-10

There are quite a few overview of the Book of Galatians and almost all agree on the two dominant themes of the book which were justification comes by faith in Jesus Christ and life in the Spirit.

Bert puts it this way: knowledge of God gained through listening to sermon and reading/studying the Word must impact our relationship with Him and our relationship with one another.

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WARMING UP

1. Recall one instance, when you believed something that was false, but now know to be true. What changed your mind?
2. How will you respond if someone came to correct you? What is your response when someone is openly sprouting nonsense?

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Galatians 1:1-3 - Theme of the letter

3. How did Paul describe himself? Who commissioned Paul? Why was it important that Paul mention his Commissioner?
4. What did verse 4 say about the two things that Jesus has done for us?
5. In what ways do the two truths affect our everyday living?

Read Galatians 1: 4-9 - There is only one Gospel

6. What was the different 'gospel' that Paul was writing about? How do we discern when a different gospel is preached?
7. 'If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse'. Why was Paul so forceful in his choice of language? Read also Gal 2:21

MOVING FORWARD

Moving forward also means that we learn to discern wrong principles that could derail our life of faith.

Ask the Holy Spirit to affirm what we cherish so much - that our faith is in Jesus who died for our sins and is rescuing us from this present evil age.

LIFE TOGETHER

God's people are a community of justified people who are being sanctified.

Pray for we continue in these truths and we continue to yield to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Galatians 1:1-3 - Theme of the letter

3. How did Paul describe himself? Who commissioned Paul? Why was it important that Paul mention his Commissioner?

He was an apostle commissioned by God Himself. From the contents of the letter, we can infer that there were others who were attacking his apostleship, seeking to invalidate his message and cause division between his and the other apostles. So, Paul spent a significant proportion of the letter (1:11-21, 2:1-10) defending his commission.

4. What did verse 4 say about the two things that Jesus has done for us?

Jesus died for our sins - this is justification. Rescue us from the present evil age - this is sanctification.

We are justified by faith in Jesus that He died for our sins and there is nothing to add to this.

Rescuing us from the present evil age did not mean spiriting us away from this world straight to heaven. This rescue meant Jesus empowered us by His Spirit to overcome the desires of the flesh (Gal 5:16-21). Paul issued a stern warning that people who continue to live by the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God (5:21).

5. In what ways do the two truths affect our everyday living?

We live in the joy knowing that we are justified before God. God has accepted us as His children (4:1-7). Note the affectionate term 'Abba Father'.

Our faith in Jesus is expressed when we live by the Spirit. Paul described a bit on how the Spirit-filled life looks like. Overcoming temptation to live in the flesh. Serve one another humbly in love.

Read Galatians 1: 4-9 - There is only one Gospel

6. What was the different 'gospel' that Paul was writing about? How do we discern when a different gospel is preached?

Again, we can infer from the passages (2:11-21, the whole of chapter 3 and 4) that it has to do with justification by the works of the law, likely to include circumcision (see 5:6, 11-12; 6:12-15). Note that the Galatians were already believers in Jesus and running the good race (5:7) but the race was in danger of being derailed due to wrong teaching!

The gospel of Jesus is the standard to which everything else must be measured against. When we know the truth, it is easier to discern the error.

7. 'If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse'. Why was Paul so forceful in his choice of language? Read also Gal 2:21

The gospel was at stake. If the wrong teaching were allowed to flourish, then Jesus died for nothing! Similarly, we must not allow wrong belief to creep into our theology. A right theology will lead to right living.