STUDY ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GALATIANS (1:1-10)

Divine Abundance 2026 Weekly Sermon Series

Warming Up...
Have you ever confidently believed something was true, only to find out you had been completely wrong? What was it? (No judgement here! Please be honest!)

Initial look at the Word: Read Galatians 1:1-10
1. What stands out to you the most when you first read this passage?
2. Looking at v1-5, what does Paul say about Jesus and what He has done for us?
3. Re-read the passage again. What does this passage teach us about God's grace and peace?

Understanding the Word...
1. What does Paul say in v6? Why is he astonished? Why do you think this was cause for concern?
2. What does Paul mean when he says there is no other gospel?
3. In v8-9, what is Paul speaking so strongly about? Why do you think he takes this so seriously?

Applying the Word to us today...
1. In your own words, write down, however long or short: what is the gospel? When ready, share with the group your answers.
2. Look at the following page at the counterfeit "Jesus plus" formulas that have been added to the gospel. Discuss what you know about each one. Can you relate to any of them?
3. Have you ever believed something about Christianity that you later discover wasn't really biblical? How did you move beyond this?
4. How easy is it to drift away from the truth? How can we prevent this?
5. Look at your answer for what the gospel is. How important is it to keep remembering this? Why is the gospel so very important for us as believers?

Praying to close...
What is one thing from today's study that you want to remember or put into practice this week? Spend some time praying over this.

And close by praying and giving thanks for the gospel of what Christ has done for you.

Aims & Objectives of today's session:
Today's session is to focus on the beginning part of Galatians. The gospel to start. This theme will continue on in the next sessions.

Things to note: Background to Galatians, the context: the central issue was whether non-Jewish believers needed to follow the Jewish religious rules and requirements (i.e. circumcision) in order to fully belong to God's people. Some teachers insisted that believing in Jesus wasn't enough, and there were extra requirements. Paul strongly disagreed and wrote a letter to address this.
Gal 1:1-5 Paul establishes his authority, making it clear that his apostleship comes through Jesus Christ and God the Father, not by human appointment. He also reminds the churches that Jesus gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age. **Gal 1:6-7** Paul shares he is shocked that the Galatians are turning away so fast from the gospel they first received. Other teachers were confusing them by presenting a distorted gospel. **Gal 1:8-9** Paul defends the truth gospel, using very strong language. **Gal 1:10** Paul challenges people-pleasing, asking them whether he is trying to win human approval or God's approval.

Homework / Challenge for this week
Continue to reflect on the power of the gospel, and what it means for you. Consider finding a worship song that highlights this for you, and listen to it throughout the week,

Ending with prayer
Lord, we thank You for the gospel message, that it is only through Christ alone that we are saved. Thank you for Your Son's love, may we never add extra because You have paid it all. Amen.

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The Counterfeit "Jesus Plus" formulas that people have added to the gospel:

Prosperity	Jesus + enough faith
Cheap/Hyper Grace	Jesus + no change
Legalism	Jesus + my effort
Universalism	Jesus or anything

If we put anything else with Jesus, it does not work.
Jesus already paid it all at the cross.
We do not need a new formula:
Jesus + anything. This will equal nothing.

We do not need to add on more to what Jesus has already done.
Adding anything else is not the gospel.

The gospel is basically: 1. We are saved by grace alone 2. We are saved by faith alone 3. We are saved by Christ alone. See Ephesians 2:8-9.	Tim Keller Quote on the Gospel: "We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."