

One Gospel

“JUSTIFIED BY FAITH”

Galatians 1 - 3

June 18, 2017

You've been set free. Don't go back to jail.

There is only One Gospel: We are justified by faith in Jesus' work, not by our works.

We put our faith in Jesus' completed work, plus nothing.

I. The One Gospel

A. Delivered by Jesus (1:1-5)

B. Deserting God (1:6-24)

1. When you add to grace, you are deserting the very One who called you! (1:6)

2. There is only one gospel. (1:7-9)

3. This is Jesus' gospel! (1:11 – 2:10)

C. Division (2:11-14)

II. Pronounced Innocent (2:15 – 3:29)

A. Justified by faith in Christ (2:15 – 3:14)

B. Prior Promise (3:15-18)

C. Purpose of the Law (3:19-26)

1. The Law brings a curse. (3:10)

2. The Law is unable to give life. (3:21)

3. The Law imprisons us. (3:23-24)

4. The Law causes us to seek a Savior. (3:22, 25-26)

D. Position in Christ (3:27-29)

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

“FREE IN CHRIST”

Galatians 4 - 6

Passage Overview:

The Son has made us to be sons. Our position has changed. Believers have been transformed from slaves to heirs. This standing is possible only in Jesus and it changes everything.

Why would someone who has been set free step back towards slavery? The Galatian believers didn't realize that as they sought to live by the law, now that they had come to faith, they were exchanging the thrill of freedom for worthless regulations that would enslave them. They were substituting the strength of being free in Christ for the weakness of earthly principles.

The cross is offensive to many because it nullifies all human effort, placing our only hope in the complete work of Jesus. Human righteousness always falls short. Jesus had to die for us no matter how hard we try to be good. That thought is offensive to many. It removes any salvific value in human merit both before salvation and after salvation.

This freedom that results from faith in Christ's work on the cross is lived out in love. God is love. Our salvation is provided by His love. So we live freely in love towards one another.

This life is empowered and controlled by Jesus' Spirit. As we walk in His Spirit our lives are radically transformed. Old sin filled patterns are replaced by Spirit born fruit. Self-centeredness is replaced by concern for our brothers and sisters. We live for Christ, exulting in the cross, even as the enchantments of the world fade into nothingness.

Free. We are finally free.

Reading for Next Week: Galatians 4 - 6