

# Let us Return to the Lord : Gospel-Driven Life



## 1. Praise

‘What a Beautiful Name’ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUBBIddm\\_rM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUBBIddm_rM)

## 2. Prayer (by the leader or a member)

## 3. Scripture Reading : Galatians 1:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—<sup>2</sup>and all the brothers and sisters with me,<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>4</sup> who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,<sup>5</sup> to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel <sup>7</sup> which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! <sup>9</sup> As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse! <sup>10</sup> Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

## 4. Sharing

Let us share about the time when we first experienced the Gospel.

## 5. What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the good news that declares ‘we have been saved’. The heart of the Gospel is that we were destined to die forever because of sin, but through the grace and the cross of Jesus Christ we have become children of God and received eternal life.

Salvation is a gift from God entirely given by His grace. Therefore, the Gospel cannot be altered by human thoughts or change over time. Apostle Paul says that a gospel that is changed to please people does not have any power and thus no longer the true Gospel.

## 6. Background

‘Galatia’ is a specific region in the Asia Minor where Apostle Paul visited during his First Missionary Journey. The content of the epistle and its relation to the Book of Acts indicate that it was probably the first Epistle written by Apostle Paul. Churches in this region were being shaken by false teachers called ‘the Judaizers’. They insisted that, in order to become a Christian, one had to observe the Mosaic Law like the Pharisees or become Jewish. They tried to turn Christianity into a religious system of ‘Christ + Moses’ by insisting that observing the Mosaic Laws was the highest mark of true conversion. So, Apostle Paul wrote this Epistle in order to correct the

churches who moved away from his teachings and deceived by these 'Judaizers'. That's why one could sense the emotional weight of the Apostle from the beginning of the Galatians. The Epistle is thus characterized by the emotional honesty and the refutation against the Judaizers. And though Apostle Paul states that the Law is nullified, he does not deny the Law itself or its morally beneficial aspect. What he denies is the argument of legalism that Christianity needs more than 'in Christ alone'. The problem in Galatians was one that the Early Church had to overcome. (Refer to the Community Bible Reading Guidebook by Yoonhee Kim, p.228-230).

## 7. Dive into the Scripture

- 1) Why did Paul start the book of Galatians in a slightly elevated tone unlike the other Epistles? (Verse 6)
- 2) Why did Paul say, "If you preach a gospel other than the one it was preached, let them be under God's curse?" (Verse 7)
- 3) What was the difference between the other gospels preached by false teachers from the gospel preached by Paul? (Reference: Ephesians 2:8-9, Acts 15:1-2)
- 4) How was Paul's life, who realized the truth of the Gospel? (Verse 10)

## 8. Applying into our lives

- 1) What other gospels are there in the church today that disturb the hearts of the saints?
- 2) Tim Keller says, "Every virtue of the Christian life grows out of a deeper experience in the gospel. Spiritual growth happens not by going beyond the gospel, but by going deeper into it." (Gaining by Losing by J.D. Greear p.60). How can we experience the Gospel in depth?

### Pray together

- 1) **Let's pray for ourselves to boldly proclaim the good news to our neighbors without being ashamed of the Gospel.**
- 2) **Let's pray for all of us to hold firmly on the truth and not be shaken by the worldly lies.**