

GALATIANS

DAY 1

Galatians 1-2

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TODAY'S THEME: ONE GOSPEL - JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IN CHRIST

Galatians 1:6-8 (ESV)

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed."

Galatians 1:6-8 (NLT)

"I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you"

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Have you ever been invited over to someone's house, only to realize there were ulterior motives? Like moving a super heavy treadmill? Not fun. These churches in Galatia have received the "Good News" of the gospel from the apostle Paul, only to have "Agitators," as he would refer to them, come in after he left and try to enslave them again to ancient Jewish customs. It's as if there was good news, but with a catch – ulterior motives. And Paul never sent them! Paul outlines the former zeal he had for the law and how he persecuted the church. He did a complete 180 in his philosophy about Christ, because He had a personal encounter with Jesus, and understood the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. Salvation, by grace through faith. He takes great pains in much of chapters one and two to explain how it was that he came to preach this message of faith in Christ, urging these Galatian believers to not return to the law.

Maybe it's human nature, but I think it's easy for us to feel like we "owe" something to those who give us something. Or, when we make a mistake we have the mindset that we need to make it up to them. And that is true from time to time in relationships that we share with one another. Do you ever find yourself thinking that way about God? Do you ever find yourself feeling like you need to "pay him back" for His generosity, or "make it up to Him" when you make a mistake? It's a liberating reminder that God will never love you any more or any less than He does right now. It's not good news with a catch. It's not a bait and switch. It's the gospel. We certainly do owe Him our lives, but living in debt and living indebted are entirely different mindsets. One produces fear. One produces gratitude.

What is God speaking to me about in today's reading?

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY: