




COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Grace is free, unmerited favor of God, working on our mind and heart to change lives.

HEAD CHANGE: We are too sinful to contribute to our salvation.

HEART CHANGE: We are saved by belief in Jesus' work plus nothing else.

LIFE CHANGE: We do not live God's way to become His children, but out of gratitude that we are already God's children.

OVERVIEW

Outline of the Gospel

It is very common in Christian circles to assume that "the Gospel" is something mainly for non-Christians. We see it as a set of basic "ABC" doctrines that are the way in which someone enters the Kingdom of God. We often assume that once we are converted, we don't need to hear or study the gospel – we need more "advanced" material. But in this short letter to the churches in Galatia, the Apostle Paul outlines the bombshell truth that the gospel is the A to Z of the Christian life. It is not only the way to enter the Kingdom, it is the way to live as part of the Kingdom. It is the way Christ transforms people, churches, and communities.

"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."

-Galatians 1:6-7 (NLT)-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated with you?
2. How would you explain the gospel to someone who asked you today what you believe?
3. Why would understanding the true gospel produce anger at false 'gospels'?
4. Do you ever find yourself thinking you deserve God's grace? How does the gospel of grace free you from pride and from guilt?
5. How are you most tempted to fear men and seek their approval? What would change if, in those moments, you lived to please the God who is pleased with you?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we can't do any of this without You. Thank You for revealing the finished work of Jesus to us. May we live with a greater understanding of your grace and approval on our lives because of what Jesus has done. If there are any areas of our lives that are captured by pride, reveal that to me now. I repent and ask for your humility to walk with you and obey you in response to your love and grace toward me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!