

Introduction to Galatians "The Defense of Grace!"

(Galatians 1:1-10)

April 16, 2023 – Pastor Don Talley

[1] When God's **GRACE** is threatened! The very **NATURE** of God is threatened!

(Acts 15:22-29; 1 Corinthians 8:9, 12-13)

[2] Grace **CHANGES** everything!

...when the Gospel of grace is applied to the heart of a sinful man or woman, girl or boy ... **GRACE** takes over!

[3] "Grace is a way **TO** life and a way **OF** life. These two go together, by the way." (McGee)

[4] "Justified"—it is our **ETERNAL POSITION** in Christ!
(1Pet.1:18-19; Eph.1:7; Isa.1:18; Micah 7:19; Ps.103:12)

[5] In God's eyes, it's "**JUST – IF – I'D**" never sinned!
(Rom.5:10; 2 Pet.3:9; Eph.2:2-5; 1 Cor.10:31; 1 Pet.4:11)

[6] The Gospel is a Gospel of Grace!

...God's grace plus **NOTHING!**

(Gal.5:16, 22-23; Rom.5:20-21; Eph.2:8-9)

[7] We are not saved by **MAKING** promises to God but by **BELIEVING** His promises." (Wiersbe)

[8] Paul argues that this new faith doesn't lead the believer **AWAY** from the law into a moral vacuum...

...it leads us to **JESUS!**

(2 Cor.5:21; Gal.5:2, 4; 2 Cor.5:17 Matt. 11:28-30)

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(Acts 15:22-29; 1 Corinthians 8:9, 12-13)

[2] Grace _____ everything!

...when the Gospel of grace is applied to the heart of a sinful man or woman, girl or boy ... _____ takes over!

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[4] "Justified"—it is our _____ in Christ!

(1Pet.1:18-19; Eph.1:7; Isa.1:18; Micah 7:19; Ps.103:12)

[5] In God's eyes, it's " _____ – _____ – _____ " never sinned!

(Rom.5:10; 2 Pet.3:9; Eph.2:2-5; 1 Cor.10:31; 1 Pet.4:11)

[6] The Gospel is a Gospel of Grace!

...God's grace plus _____!

(Gal.5:16, 22-23; Rom.5:20-21; Eph.2:8-9)

[7] "We are **not** saved by _____ promises to God but by _____ His promises." (Wiersbe)

[8] Paul argues that this new faith doesn't lead the believer _____ from the law into a moral vacuum...

...it leads us to _____!

(2 Cor.5:21; Gal.5:2, 4; 2 Cor.5:17 Matt. 11:28-30)

TAKING IT HOME

- 7) What does the following verse reveal about our standing in God's eyes? **Hebrews 10:14** - "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

What rules can we follow to be *more perfect* in God's eyes?

Our **position** of being "holy" is given to us by God. We are clothed in His righteousness, and are called "perfect" the moment we trust in Jesus. Our **practical** holiness refers to becoming more like Jesus in our thoughts, actions, and words. The Bible calls this our "sanctification", and begins the moment we are saved and continues until we are in heaven. What questions do you have about this?

What can you do to better *rest* in the fact that Jesus calls you "holy" and "perfect" no matter how you feel on a given day? (This promise only applies if you've put your faith in Jesus)

What can you do to *move forward* in becoming more like Jesus? How can you continue the "sanctification" process?

- 8) What do you most need to remember or put into practice from this week's message or homework?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of April 16, 2023

Welcome to the 2023 Spring Quarter of Life Groups! The following questions will be used for discussion at this week's life groups. Please answer all of the questions before your life group, so you're most prepared to share! If you're not yet in a life group, it's not too late to sign up! They are the best way to get connected and grow spiritually at Open Gate.

MY STORY

- 1) Blast from the Past: Where were you when you were 20 years old? What did you do?

If you could go back and encourage your 20-year-old self spiritually, what would you say?

QUICK REVIEW

- 2) Summarize Galatians 1:1-10 in eight words or less.
- 3) What stood out to you from this Sunday's message? (Favorite point, favorite verse, questions, etc)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) In Galatians 1, Paul warned the church that they were following after a *different* gospel - a *false* gospel. In your own words, define the *true* gospel.

Both in Paul's day, and today, there are false prophets and false teachers. We read in - *1 John 4:1* - "*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*" Do you think it is possible to be *too lax* or *too harsh* in testing teaching or ideas? Why or why not?

5) In Galatians 1:8, Paul says even if an angel or apostle teaches a *different gospel* - to not believe it. This means that we don't accept something as truth simply because something supernatural happens - or because it comes from a spiritual leader. We must accept it as truth only if it lines up with the Bible. To the best of your ability, mark the following statements as *True* or *False*. If you can - list a verse in the Bible supporting your answer. (*Don't worry if you don't know these answers! Write down your questions. Life Group is a perfect place to discuss, share, and learn together!*)

- **True or False:** Jesus is the Son of Man.
- **True or False:** Jesus was created and is an angel.
- **True or False:** You must be baptized to go to heaven.
- **True or False:** In order to please God, you must read the Bible daily.
- **True or False:** A wicked, evil person can turn to Jesus on their death-bed and still go to heaven.
- **True or False:** Because God is love, He will not allow people to suffer in hell.
- **True or False:** If you were born with a "natural" desire, it's OK to act on it - since you were born that way.

6) The verses below give a glimpse of Paul's ministry when he first came to the region of Galatia. What stands out to you?

Acts 14:1-2, 19-23 - "[1] Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. [2] But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. ... [19] Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. [20] However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. [21] And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, [22] strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." [23] So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

How do you think Paul and Barnabas endured such intense persecution and trials in their ministry?

What lies do you think Paul and Barnabas might have been tempted by during this time?

When Paul first planted churches in Galatia, Satan used jealous Jews to stir up fierce persecution. Then, after Paul left, Satan used false teaching to attack the new believers in Galatia. In what ways do you think Satan uses these strategies today?