

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

Jesus + _____ = Salvation?

April 2012

Lesson #2 - Galatians - GOOD NEWS OR BAD?

INTRODUCTION

Why do you think that Satan is so anxious to attack the doctrine of salvation?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Gal 1:6-10

1. What attitude did Paul express? Why? (6-7)
2. How were the Galatian Christians being thrown into confusion?
Note: Any gospel which mixes works with faith, and law with grace, is an utter distortion of the Good News about the salvation we have in Jesus Christ.¹
3. What hypothetical case did Paul present to show the purity of the gospel? (8-9)
4. What is at stake for Paul's warning to the Galatians?
5. Paul seems pretty serious about this subject – *eternal separation from God?* A curse was not as casual of a comment as it is today. What's the big deal?
6. What accusation had been thrown at Paul? (10)

Note: Paul's critics accused him of preaching "easy believism" because he did not include the law as grounds for salvation and Christian maturity. They claimed Paul watered down the gospel, by omitting the law, to increase his popularity among the Gentiles.²

7. How did Paul affirm his purpose to please God? Why are false teachers more interested in popularity than truth?
8. If you were seeking the approval of men rather than God, what would you change to make the Gospel more palatable?
9. How can we be sure that the gospel we believe and preach is the true gospel? Acts 4:12

APPLICATION

- How can you be prepared to respond the next time you hear a distorted message about Christ? 1 Pet 3:15
- What potential contaminants of the Gospel do you need to confront?

If we lose the Gospel, we lose the power to change lives. Only the Gospel produces real life change.

"The strongest argument for the Gospel of Christ is the personal testimony of someone whose life has been changed by it. Charles Bradlaugh, an avowed infidel, once challenged the Rev. H. P. Hughes to a debate. The preacher, who was head of a rescue mission in London, England, accepted the challenge with the condition that he could bring with him 100 men and women who would tell what had happened in their lives since trusting Christ as their Savior. They would be people who once lived in deep sin, some having come from poverty-stricken homes caused by the vices of their parents. Hughes said they would not only tell of their conversion, but would submit to cross-examination by any who doubted their stories. Furthermore, the minister invited his opponent to bring a group of non-believers who could tell how they were helped by their lack of faith. When the appointed day arrived, the preacher came, accompanied by 100 transformed persons. But Bradlaugh never showed up. The result? The meeting turned into a testimony time and many sinners who had gathered to hear the scheduled debate were converted."

Source unknown - http://www.bible.org/illus.asp?topic_id=661

¹ Richards, L. O. (1991). *The Bible readers companion* (electronic ed.) (788). Wheaton: Victor Books.

² Anders, M. (1999). *Vol. 8: Galatians-Colossians*. Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference (7). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.