

The Gospel of Grace

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Antioch (for anyone who wants to be in ministry development, not just interested in degrees). Harvest. Thrive. Children @ Risk. Women's Ministry.

II. Slide7 Intro: The Gospel of Grace

- A. The book of *Galatians* played such a key role in the **Reformation** that it was called *the cornerstone of the Protestant Reformation*.
1. Because its emphasis on *salvation by grace through faith alone* was the major theme of the preaching of the Reformers.
 2. Slide8 Martin Luther was especially attached to Gal & referred to it as *his wife*.
 - a) He lectured on the book extensively and his Commentary on Galatians was widely read by the common people.
- B. Slide9 Galatia - a mountainous territory in central Asia Minor, modern day Turkey.
1. 3 cent. BC wandering tribes of *Gauls* from Europe entered & settled the area.
 2. It became known as the kingdom of Galatia (after the name Gaul, *think Gaulatia*).
- C. Problem? – Paul had preached *the gospel of salv by faith in JC* to the Galatians, who were *Gentiles* (no background in Judaism). They welcomed it w/enthusiasm & many believed. The Judiazers coming behind Paul's visit to the Galatia churches preached their *distorted* gospel. Slide10 Simply believe on Jesus. Grace + anything = nothing/damnation Jesus+nothing=everything
1. The 5 Solae (alone) of the Protestant Reformation: Sola scriptura. Sola fide. Sola gratia. Sola Christus. Soli Deo gloria.
- D. Probably like most new believers, they were **eager** to do right to prove their faithfulness. So when they were taught by these *traveling teachers...well ok then, if that's what we need to do*.
1. They were ready to add **circumcision** & the **Law** to their *faith in Christ*.
 - a) If this goes *unchecked*, Christianity would lapse into being a **cult of Judaism**.
- E. Key verses: 2:16; 5:1. [grace in vs.3,6,15]
- F. Slide11 Outline of Book: The Gospel of Grace Defended (1,2). The Gospel of Grace Explained (3,4). The Gospel of Grace Applied (5,6).

1. Christian freedom is the **liberty** to become all that you can in Jesus Christ; it is not the **license** to do whatever you please. *Shepherd's Notes, Galatians, pg.6*

G. So, Why would a bird set free, return to its cage? Why would an animal caught in a trap, return once it was freed? Why would a slave, return to his shackles? Why would a free nation, want to return to tyranny?

1. It makes as much sense for - A believer to leave off of working to be saved, and then receive free-grace...only to return once again to **works** chains.

a) So many have exchanged their silver **handcuffs**, for **red anodized** ones. It's just a *new kind of slavery*.

2. It probes the question, How does a person come into a right relationship w/God?

III. Slide12 **GREETING (1-5)**

A. Letters in the 1st century (Jewish & Greek) included **3 parts**: *name of sender, name of recipient, & a formula of greeting*. [**Apostle** - an affirmation of his identity]

B. (3-5) **The Gospel in a nutshell**.

C. (3) Galatians begins & ends with *Grace*.

1. **Slide13 Grace & Peace** summarize God's dealings w/human beings.

a) **Grace** is God's undeserved kind intention carried out on behalf of sinful human beings

b) **Peace** is the result of grace received.

D. (4) **He gave Himself for our what?** our sins. *Spurgeon reminds us...*

1. **Not for** our virtues, **but for** our sins. **Not for** our efficiencies, **but for** our deficiencies. **Not for** our wealth, **but for** our lack. **Not for** what we have, **but for** what we have not.

a) It's not what we can **boast of**, but what we **mourn over** that qualifies us to receive the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

E. He didn't **deliver us** to be our own, **but** to be *His & His alone*.

F. The believer is **delivered from...**

1. Mt.6:13 **And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.**

2. Col.1:13 **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.**

3. 1 Thes.1:10 **wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**
 4. 2 Cor.1:10 **who delivered us from so great a death (past), and does deliver us (presently); in whom we trust that He will still deliver us (future).**
 5. Gal.1:4 **that He might deliver us from this present evil age.**
- G. Our present evil age whispers: Live for self! *Yet, the worse bondage, is living for self, & yielding to the desires of the old nature.*
- H. (5) **This mini doxology** expresses the conviction that God is worthy of our **unending** adoration and worship.

IV. Slide14 **1 GOSPEL (6-10)**

- A. (6) **Turning away** – deserting.
1. Was used of, *desertion or revolt in a military or political defection.* LKGNT
 - a) He was calling them **spiritual turncoats.**
 2. **Abandon a God-centered message of salvation for a human-centered one?**
Yep! [How quick we want to run back to *earning brownie points* with God]
 3. To abandon **the gift** of grace, **is** to desert **the Giver** of it.
- B. **I marvel** – *I'm shocked, I can't believe it.*
1. The **gospel** was a treasure that Paul guarded. (**This is the spiritual hill to die on**)
 2. See **gospel** in vs.6,7,8,9,11.
 3. **We don't have a different gospel today...we have 50 of them...**
 - a) We have the **Me Gospel.** The **money Gospel.** The Gospel of **do do do.**
The Gospel of **anything goes.** The **progressive Gospel** (*i.e. salvation is a process*).
The **pick yourself up by your boot-straps** Gospel.
- C. **Note, NONE** of Paul's letters start with what we need to **do for God.**
1. **Instead,** always begins w/**what God has already done.**
 - a) To get this the other way around is to **miss** the **gospel.**
 2. **Eg. Colossians has 4 ch.'s - Ch's 1,2** describe the glowing & remarkable things God has done for us in Christ. **Ch. 3** starts w/*then live this way.*
Seek those things which are up above. Set your mind on things above.

3. Eg. Eph.'s 1st 3 ch.'s - This is what God in Christ has done for you.
Ch.4, *Therefore, walk worthy of your calling.*
- D. Slide15 Key: The gospel focus on Jesus' performance for **us**, **not our** performance for **Him**.
1. On what **He's** done, **not** on what **we** can do.
 2. I believe if we understand this, we'll be **less** enslaved to our sin & **more** grateful for Jesus.
 - a) And the *more grateful* we are for Jesus, the more we'll want to *live a life that pleases Him*.
 3. So when we identify the Gospel as *the death, burial & resurrection*, this is **true**.
 - a) **What HE DID** is the gospel. And our response is with awe, adoration, grateful hearts & a desire to *now live out from that* a life that pleases our Lord.
 4. **And now**, because Jesus is **Extraordinary**, we are free to be **ordinary**;
Because Jesus is **Someone**, we are free to be **no-one**;
Because Jesus **Succeeded**, we are free to **fail**.¹
- E. (7) Slide16 Acts 15:1 **Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.** [What is *essential* to the Gospel & what is *non-essential*?]
1. Unless you are **circumcised**. Unless you are **wealthy**.
Unless you are **healthy**. Unless you believe in **pre-trib rapture**.
Unless you **worship on Sunday mornings**. Unless you **belong to our group**.
Unless you are **water baptized**. Unless you **worship on Saturday**.
 2. Today the church still asks...*don't they have to be one of us?*
 - a) **Or**, *Isn't acceptance w/God to be obtained by any effort of our own?*
 - b) Adding something ourselves seems *so right, so reasonable, so religious!*
 - (1) *Do we forget that adding anything to **grace**, changes **grace**...to something other than **grace**?*
- F. Slide17a **Why do people choose Legalism over Grace?**
1. **Legalism is more Appealing**.
 - a) Faith in Christ requires us to repent & be humble.

¹ Tullian Tchividjian, podcast.

b) If religion can be reduced to regulations I can feel good about my accomplishments.

c) *Christ did it all* is a little hard on my ego.

2. Slide17b Legalism is more Natural.

a) Most of our human experiences say, *you get what you work for*. *Not 'ins free in dis world*

3. Slide17c Legalism is more Manageable.

a) It is easier to do certain *well-defined duties*, *than* exercise a life-changing faith.

4. Slide17d Legalism is more Safe.

a) Freedom is dangerous. *What, leave matters up to the individuals conscience? :0*

G. Legalists are *right* in that *control* is needed. They are *wrong* about where the control must come from.

1. *Outward restrictions* – are *ineffective* in creating moral living.

2. *Inward convictions* – come from being empowered by the H.S.

H. Think about it...there is *no cult* that teaches *faith in Christ alone will save*. (Nope! it is **add** this, or **follow** that)

I. *Are you a little Judiaizer? Do you look for anything more than repentance & belief in someone to evaluate their salvation? Do you quietly in your mind question anyone's eternal destiny if you see them smoking or drinking, cussing or gambling?*

J. (8,9) *Let them be accursed/anathema* – Paul paints the strongest words possible for this. [*harshest statement in the NT*]

K. (10) Paul asks, *Do these sound like man pleasing words? Just set your heart on pleasing Christ 1st*

V. Slide18 **CALLING** (11-17)

A. Paul said, the gospel I gave you was not from *man* but from *God*.

B. *It wasn't from my religious background* (13-17). *It wasn't from the church* (18-20). *It wasn't from my tract record* (21-24).

1. *It wasn't Paul's Religious Background* (13-17)

a) If anyone knew the *value & limitations* of the law, it was **Paul**.

b) There was nothing in his background that could have prepared him for a positive response to the gospel.

(1) It was quite the opposite. He took up arms against the church.

c) To reveal his Son in me – (Don't miss that)

(1) God seeks to **unveil** His Son in you also. **Are you displaying & glorifying Jesus on earth?**

2. It wasn't the Church commissioning Paul (18-20)

a) He couldn't have been dependent upon the Jerusalem church or its leaders for his authority...**he wasn't there!**

3. It wasn't Paul's fabulous Tract Record (21-24, esp.23a)

VI. Slide19 CONTACTS (18-24)

A. Paul's Testimony - When God transforms a life there is always *a testimony*.

1. Do you share yours? Often? Who would you like to share it with?

B. Slide20 Testimony Tips:²

1. Talk, don't preach – just tell your story.

a) *The gospel is neither a discussion nor a debate. It is an announcement.* Paul S. Rees

2. Be Specific – be clear about the gospel.

3. Be Clear & Simple – Talk w/plain terms, **not Christian-ese**.

4. Be Honest – don't embellish your story (*i.e.* create sins or enhance them)

5. Be Brief – Paul covered 14 years in **13 verses**.

6. Be Selective – only say what's important.

7. Be Logical – follow a progression. (your life **before** Christ, **how** you came to know Him, & what your life is like **now**)

8. Be Humble – Glorify God...not yourself. (vs.24)

9. Let God do the rest – you just plant/water.

10. Pray for their salvation.

C. Think through your testimony. Tell it to someone this week. It doesn't have to be a total stranger (neighbor, co-worker). *May I tell you how I came to know Jesus?*

² Charles Swindoll, Galatians, Bible Study Guide, pg. 22,23.

1. Remember you're not giving a presentation, you're sharing your story w/ someone.