

Series: Thriving in Grace Passage: Galatians 1:6-24 Title: Salvation in Christ Alone Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 1/26/2025

Discussion Starter –Describe a time in your life that you have had to have a difficult conversation with a friend. How did you approach the topic? Did you initially acknowledge his or her position? How did you present your thoughts on the issue in question? How does Paul jump into the main topic of his letter to the Galatians?

Read Galatians 1:6-9

- 1. Why does Paul marvel, (amazed or astonished) at the actions of the Galatians?
- 2. How would you define, "the Gospel of Christ"? What does it mean to "pervert it"?
- 3. How was it being perverted in the Galatian church? Are there other ways you have seen the Gospel perverted?
- 4. What declaration does Paul pronounce on anyone who preaches any other gospel? What practical steps might be included in this pronouncement?
- 5. Why did Paul's objection to these teachers rise to this level of rejection?
 - a. What teaching would cause you to cease fellowship with a church or individual?
- 6. What was attractive to the Galatians about the idea of "Jesus plus something" for salvation?
 - b. Why is righteousness by performance attractive to all of us? What do we lose when we add requirements to our salvation?
 - c. Do you hold yourself to performance standards as a believer? How do we recognize when mature responsibility crosses the line and becomes "another gospel"?

Read Galatians 1:10-17

- 7. How did Paul come to understand the Gospel? Who taught him?
- 8. What was Paul called to do and be, (verse 16)? Why did Paul not first go to confer with other men over his new revelation of salvation by grace?
 - d. Are you convinced that you were called, same as Paul, to allow God to reveal His Son in you? How is Jesus being seen in you?

Read Galatians 1:18-24

- 9. How much time passed before Paul met Peter and James after his conversion? After that encounter, what did Paul do?
- 10. Why does Paul emphasize so strongly that he didn't interact with the other apostles during his early years in the faith?
 - e. Paul's confident faith was grounded in and grew during the time he invested in prayerful meditation of the Hebrew scriptures. He had boldness to confront Peter and Gods' Son, Jesus was being revealed in his life. Are you experiencing a dynamic and growing relationship with Jesus, or are you trying to get closer to God by living your life to a higher standard?