



Series: Thriving in Grace

Passage: Galatians 1:18-2:10, Acts 11:19-25

Title: The Gospel Under Attack

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 1/09/2025

Discussion Starter – Is there a particular item for which you worked and saved your money to purchase? (perhaps a home, a car, special jewelry?) Did it hold special meaning to you because of the effort you put forth? How did you grow as a person from that experience? How is that experience different from gaining the gift of salvation?

Review Galatians 1:6-8

1. Paul uses strong language identifying a different gospel that is a perversion of the gospel of Christ. How do you define The Gospel?
2. If the Gospel is literally “good news”, what is the problem or the bad news for which it is meant to address?
3. How is human pride offended when we are asked to freely receive the Gospel?
4. What interest do evil powers have in perverting the Gospel, what is at stake?
 - a. Why was the Gospel under attack in Paul’s day as well as in our day?

Read Galatians 1:18-24 and Acts 11:19-26

5. What was Paul doing during the years represented in these verses? How was God building him?
6. How was the church in Antioch born? Who were the people who made up the membership? How did Barnabas and Paul come to be involved?
7. What specific training, experiences, and life choices prepared Paul to stand so strongly in opposition to this “other gospel”?
 - b. What has God been preparing and building you to be in His Kingdom? What area of service are you becoming uniquely equipped to provide?

Read Acts 15:1-5 and Galatians 2:1-10

8. Who brought this message of circumcision to the Antioch church? When did Paul and Barnabas first dispute their message?
9. Why did Paul and Barnabas make the 350-mile trip to Jerusalem from Antioch? Why did they meet privately with those of reputation before presenting their case in Acts 15:12?
 - c. How can the wrong approach impact the delivery of the right message? What techniques do you use to communicate truth to people who have a contrary point of view?
10. What does Paul mean in verse 2:4-6 when he says, “we did not yield submission for even for an hour” and “...they added nothing to me”? Whose understanding was ultimately moved?
 - d. Are there areas of doctrinal disagreement that are important to your walk with Jesus, but difficult to discuss with certain other believers? What can you learn from Paul’s approach that can help you to effectively communicate truth and promote fellowship?