

The What, How and Why of the Gospel

Galatians 1:1-9

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Big Picture Truth: God's gospel of grace is both unchanging and unchangeable.

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—²and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. ⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
Galatians 1:1-9 (English Standard Version)

Question 1: WHAT IS THE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE OF THE GOSPEL?

Reading Suggestion: The Doctrine of the Word of God by John Frame, (P&R, 2010). This is a comprehensive, profound, and biblical treatment of the authority of Scripture.

Question 2: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

#1: We are helpless to save ourselves.

. . . who gave himself for our sins to rescue us . . .
Galatians 1:4a (New International Version)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, . . . Ephesians 2:1 (NIV)

#2: Jesus sacrificed himself in our place and became our substitute.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 5:9 (NIV)

#3: Christ's death and resurrection happened "according to the will of our God and Father."

Question 3: HOW DO WE LOSE OUR GRIP ON THE TRUE GOSPEL?

. . . by evaluating the gospel according to our own internal standards.

Question #4: WHY DOES THE TRUE GOSPEL MATTER?

- If you receive a different gospel, you are deserting Christ.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— Galatians 1:6 (NIV)

- If you receive a different gospel, you are also buying into a dangerous lie.

- If you receive a different gospel, you invite God's condemnation.

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! Galatians 1:8-9 (NIV)