

ASTONISHED THAT YOU ARE SO QUICKLY DESERTING HIM WHO CALLED YOU IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST AND TURNING TO A DIFFERENT GOSPEL— NOT THAT THERE IS ANOTHER GOSPEL, BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD PERVERT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. 8 BUT EVEN IF WE, OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN, SHOULD PREACH A GOSPEL CONTRARY TO THAT WHICH YOU RECEIVED, LET HIM BE ACCURSED. 9 AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, SO NOW I SAY AGAIN, IF ANY ONE IS PREACHING TO YOU A GOSPEL CONTRARY TO THAT WHICH YOU RECEIVED, LET HIM BE ACCURSED. 10 AM I NOW SEEKING THE FAVOR OF MEN, OR OF GOD? OR AM I TRYING TO PLEASE MEN? IF I WERE STILL PLEASING MEN, I SHOULD NOT BE A SERVANT OF CHRIST. 11 FOR I HAVE NOW MADE IT MY GOAL TO PLEASE GOD. THE GOSPEL WHICH WAS PREACHED BY ME IS NOT MAN'S GOSPEL. 12 FOR I DID NOT RECEIVE IT FROM MAN, NOR WAS I TAUGHT IT, BUT IT CAME THROUGH A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. 13 FOR YOU

# GALATIANS

## FREEDOM IN CHRIST

WEEK OF 04/28/26

DON'T ADD A THING!

GALATIANS 2:1-10

### Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

### Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

**Read:** Galatians 2:1-10

### Devotional (30-45 minutes)

Our passage from this past Sunday's sermon focuses on a longstanding danger to the Church – namely, the teachings of some in every generation who distort the Gospel of Christ by adding requirements for salvation.

1. Who are the "false brothers" mentioned by Paul in Galatians 2:4? (Read also Galatians 1:7 and 1:9)
2. According to verse 4, what were the "false brothers" like? What does the language in verse 4 suggest about their character and motivations?

False brothers also exist in the church today. They often exude arrogance and love speaking poorly about other Christians. This is how the "false brothers" acted towards Paul (Gal. 1:10, 4:16-17, 5:11). They are also prone to argue and insist that their preference be treated as matters of first importance. In the case of the "false brothers," their preferences involved the cultural customs of Judaism – preferences such as circumcision and the laws of Moses. In discussing this subject, it is good to remember Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 2:11, "For we are not ignorant of [Satan's] schemes."

3. How do we recognize "false brothers" in the church today? Consider various influences in your own life, whether in person or perhaps online.
4. What might be the motivation of such individuals?

In the remainder of the passage, Paul recaps a visit he made to Jerusalem in roughly AD 47. During this visit, he met with the Jerusalem apostles (i.e., James, Cephas, and John) to hear

a report about how the Galatian churches were doing. During the visit, the Jerusalem apostles demonstrate wonderfully how to protect the unity of the church in the face of division. In short, the **Big Idea of today's passage is this: *Don't add a thing to the already perfect gospel!***

5. Read verse 3. Who was Titus and why was his presence at this meeting so important?
6. In verse 6, what does it mean that the apostles "added nothing" to Paul?
7. Don't forget that the Bible is meant to be a mirror (James 1:23). What are some ways in which you might "add" to the gospel? (i.e., fall into legalism) In other words, when is the last time you checked yourself for "fangs" in your mouth and "fur" on your back? (See Acts 20:29-30).

The Jerusalem apostles also demonstrate gospel unity in a few other ways. Paul records that they "saw" that he had been entrusted with the gospel (v. 7) and also "perceived the grace that was given" (v. 9) to him. He also discusses having unity in mission – to "remember the poor" in their respective ministries.

8. What does the text in v. 9 mean when it says "James and Cephas (Peter) and John, who seemed to be pillars, *perceived the grace that was given to me?*" How might we exhibit that same perception of the grace of God in our brothers and sisters in Christ?
9. What is your initial reaction to Paul's exhortation to "remember the poor" in verse 10? How do you think "remembering the poor" is related to gospel unity?

### **Closing Prayer**

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace to take to heart the grave dangers we are in through our many divisions. Deliver your Church from all enmity and prejudice, and everything that hinders us from godly union.

As there is one Body and one Spirit, one God and Father of us all, so make us all to be of one heart and of one mind, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and love, that with one voice we may give You praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God in everlasting glory. Amen.