

An Anchored Faith in an Unsettling World

Text: Galatians 1:10-2:10

Summary

In this sermon we looked at Paul's defense of his gospel and ministry. Over and against constantly changing man-made religions and philosophies, the gospel of grace is unshakeable and can withstand the pressures of life. Paul's defense can be seen in four arguments that he uses to call the church back to his gospel: his gospel is divinely revealed, personally transformative, communally verified, and impartially extended. When the constant waves of life unsettle our faith and lead us to doubt, we must anchor our souls to the unshakeable gospel of grace.

Sermon Outline

I. Introduction: An Unsettling World

- Aasha's birthday trip to the Red River Gorge led to watching chaotic nature videos, including tornadoes and earthquakes.
- Earthquakes cause a dizzying, destabilizing feeling of having nothing sturdy to hold onto.
- The Galatian believers were experiencing a spiritual earthquake; false teachers shook everything they knew about salvation and God's purposes (Galatians 1:7, 3:1, 5:12).
- We face similar disorientation from modern cultural messages, trials, and personal sin.
- Paul defends his gospel using four rock-solid arguments that help us find our footing and call us to anchor our souls to the unshakeable gospel of grace..

II. Argument 1: The Source

- False teachers accused Paul of watering down the message to please men and changing the word of God for Gentiles (Galatians 1:10).
- Paul clarifies his message came directly through a divine revelation from Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11-12).
- He did not immediately go to Jerusalem to "Google it" or fact-check his gospel with the Apostles, proving he did not learn it from man (Galatians 1:16-22).
- Man-made religions and secularism demand constant performance, shift constantly, and offer zero grace.
- *Application:* Anchor your soul to a gospel that is divinely revealed

III. Argument 2: The Experience

- Paul was a violent religious terrorist who approved of Stephen's execution and ravaged the early church (Acts 6:10-14, 8:1-3, 9:1-2).
- His former life was entirely based on his own human effort and building his own foundation (Galatians 1:13-14).

- God's sovereign grace completely flipped his trajectory, creating a total, inside-out transformation (Galatians 1:15-16).
- The Judean churches glorified God when they heard about Paul's radical shift (Galatians 1:23-24).
- *Application:* Anchor your soul to a gospel that is personally transformative

IV. Argument 3: The Verification

- Unlike religions started by Muhammad or Joseph Smith, which rely on the unverified private experiences of isolated individuals, Paul's private revelation was communally verified.
- Paul traveled to Jerusalem after 14 years with Titus, an uncircumcised Gentile, to ensure his message aligned with the other Apostles (Galatians 2:1-5).
- Like the two independent engineering teams building the English Channel Tunnel which aligned perfectly, Paul and Peter operated off the same divine blueprint, causing their messages to align perfectly.
- The Jerusalem leaders perceived the grace of God in Paul and gave him the right hand of fellowship (Galatians 2:9).
- The church must continually verify the faith and contend for the gospel together (Jude 1:3). We also must notice and call out the grace we see in each other.
- *Application:* Anchor your souls to a gospel that is communally verified.

V. Argument 4: The Scope

- The Christian church is not a localized, western religion; it is the most demographically and geographically diverse movement in human history.
- The gospel was entrusted to Paul for the Gentiles and Peter for the Jews, extending to all people.
- The true gospel shatters human hierarchies and shows no partiality (Galatians 2:6).
- This transcendent message inherently produces a deep care for the poor and marginalized (Galatians 2:10).
- *Application:* Anchor your souls to a gospel that is impartially extended.

VI. Closing

- When the constant waves of life unsettle your faith and lead you to doubt, anchor your souls to the unshakeable gospel of grace.