**Studies in the Book of Galatians:**

**Paul & the Gospel**

**(Galatians1:1 – 2:21)**

***Pastor Chris Kam***

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse! (Galatians 1:6-9)

We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:15 – 16)

# Introduction

Some background of the book of Galatians. It is like a shortened version of the book of Romans.

1. Salvation by Grace through faith in Christ.
2. Cornerstone book of Protestant Reformation - Martin Luther passionately loved the book of Galatians.
3. Written in the time of the early church in Christianity when there was a separation of Judaism and Christianity.
4. Judaism – works and law which reveals us of our sins, Christianity – is about the Gospel.
5. We are saved by forgiveness of sin through the death of Christ.

What is the Gospel? It is the Good News.

C:\Users\Pru\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\XFT5KPX5\Light-Bulb[1].jpg**BIG IDEA: Justified by faith in Christ.**

There are 3 things the Apostle Paul is concerned about.

# Perverting the Gospel of Grace (Galatians 1:6-10)

The Church become stronger the more the evil one attacks from outside. The danger of a ‘different gospel’ being preached by false teachers in corrupting the Gospel of Grace – preaching a different Gospel with a different Spirit. (Galatians 1: 6-7)

The devil attacks the Church by corrupting the Gospel of Christ by adding or subtracting from the true Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:4) in an attempt to destroy the Church

For examples, the gospel of works - to do good works in order to be saved. Another example is the misuse of the gospel of Grace as a license to do as we wish because God has died forour sins to save us.

The Gospel Fundamental: It is not what we can do for God but what God can do for us.

We are never good enough to receive salvation but by Christ’s sacrifice we are forgiven and so will receive salvation by grace. We do not become a better person by works but when we accept Christ, there is forgiveness for us.

General William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, “I consider that the chief dangers which will confront the twentieth century will be:

* Religion without the Holy Spirit
* Christianity without Christ
* Forgiveness without repentance
* Salvation without regeneration
* Politics without God
* Heaven without Hell

# Proclaiming the Gospel of Grace (Gal.1:11-12)

The Apostle Paul says that the true Gospel is from God and not of human origin but a revelation.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:11-12)

We are to share the Gospel with God’s strength

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:1)

Each church has a Statement of Faith, Creeds which is the guideline for us to follow.

True Gospel is found in the Word of God.

# Protecting the Gospel of Grace (Gal.2:14)

The Gospel needs to be defended and only by knowing the Word of God

We need to rebuke what is shared if it is wrong.

We are caught in a tension among preferences, traditions, and doctrines.

Preferences have to do with the style of worshipping God, type of songs, type of instruments used, big or small church, colours, etc. Do not fight over preferences, but focus on the true Gospel and doctrines.

Traditions on the other hand deals with which version of the Bible to use, way of doing Communion etc.

Live a life demonstrating the righteousness of the Gospel.

The Gospel needs also to be demonstrated (Gal.2:17–21)

*“God loves you just the way you are, but He refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus.” ~Max Lucado*

# CONCLUSION

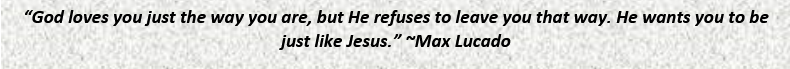
We are deeply loved by God. We cannot do anything to gain our Salvation but it is given to

us when we acknowledge that Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins.

Memory Verse:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)



Sermon summary by Michelle Chuah