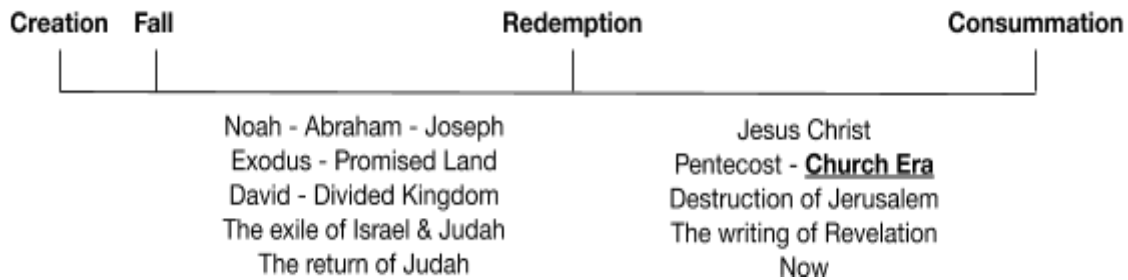


TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

05-11 May 2019 | Galatians 1:1-10



The Message. We are justified by faith alone. Anything that alters this teaching constitutes another gospel. There must be no other gospel, for whatever reason. We must hold to the true gospel of God and warn those who turn from it.

Context. Apostle Paul founded the churches in Galatia in ca. AD 48 and wrote this letter in ca. AD 50. He was astonished by how quickly the churches turned to another gospel (1:6) – which came from the Judaizers, who required obedience to Jewish laws and the works of the flesh (especially circumcision) as a means of salvation. Paul affirmed the doctrine of justification by faith from both theological (chs. 3,4) and practical (chs. 5,6) perspectives. He warned Galatians of the severe consequences of abandoning such essential doctrine.

Observation

1. How does Paul begin the letter? What tone does he employ (1:1,6)?
2. What is the problem in the churches in Galatia? What is the “different gospel” Paul refers to in 1:7 (cf. 6:13)? How is it different from the gospel of Christ?
3. How do the churches in Galatia respond to the “different gospel” (1:6-7)?
4. How does Paul respond to the churches in Galatia (1:6)?
5. How does Paul respond to those who teach “different gospel” (1:8-9)?
6. What does 1:10 tell us about Paul’s experience on the matter?

Meaning

7. What does it mean that Jesus “gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age” (1:4, cf. Col. 1:13-14)?

8. What does “according to the will of our God and Father” (1:4) tell us about our salvation?
9. What does it mean to be a servant of Christ (1:10)?

Application

ECF. “Christ-plus may not look the same in our cultures as it did in Galatia. But it’s still an attractive message, a flattering view, and a subtle reversal of the true gospel ... and so it’s still deadly” (Keller, Kindle loc.45).

10. What are the “different gospels” that we find in our world today?
11. Why are people attracted to the “different gospels” (cf. 1:10)?
12. What can we do to keep ourselves/others from falling into “different gospel”?
13. Why we do not respond to “different gospels” like Paul respond?

Christ-Centeredness.

14. What is the gospel of Christ?
15. Where do the “other gospels” lead us to? How does the gospel of Christ make a difference in our lives?

Insights

The doctrine of justification by faith teaches we are saved by grace through faith alone. It is not our own doing; it is the gift of God. Eph. 2:8. It distinguishes Christianity from all other belief systems where humans work their ways to God.

Judaizers are (Christians who teach it is necessary to adopt Jewish customs and practices, especially those found in the Law of Moses, to be saved.

The absence of thanksgiving in Paul’s letter is rare. The urgency of the matter in the churches in Galatia has caused Paul to “express [his] astonishment at the fickleness and instability of the Galatians” right away (Stott, Kindle loc.137).

Resources

Keller, Timothy. *Gospel Matters: The Good Book Guide to Galatians*. UK: The Good Book Company, 2013.

Stott, John. *Reading Galatians with John Stott: 9 Weeks for Individuals or Groups*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect, 2017.