



What the Good News Means Galatians 1:1-12

*¹ Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers and sisters with me,
³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

⁶ 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—⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

⁸ 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! ⁹ 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!

¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹ 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.

Community Group Questions:

1. Have you ever admitted to yourself that you're "unqualified" to earn God's love? When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Romans 5:6

2. What thoughts arise when you meditate upon this verse- "(Jesus) gave himself for our sins." Galatians 1:4

3. How do you understand this passage? Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, ...³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. Ephesians 2:1-3

What is the heart of the Christian message?

1. The Gospel is Jesus *rescues us*.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ...
Romans 5:6-10



Tim Keller -He doesn't send a teacher. He doesn't send just a counselor. He doesn't just send an instructor in swimming. He sends somebody who doesn't throw a swimming manual in the water with us. He sends somebody who throws himself in the water.

2. How does Jesus *rescue us*?

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ***who gave himself for our sins*** ..." Galatians 1:3,4

Why? (Jesus) gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, ***according to the will of our God and Father***, Galatians 1:4

The only reason God would actually come after us is because of his grace. Not because we're searching for him or meriting it.

This is the Gospel=The only way you can become a Christian is not by pointing to your qualifications but by admitting you have no qualifications, *which is the only qualification*.

3. What is Jesus doing it for?

(Jesus) gave himself for our sins ***to rescue us from the present evil age*** according to the will of our God and Father... Galatians 1:4

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, ...³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. Ephesians 2:1-3

That says we used to belong to the present evil age.

Here's what it means= "*Justification by faith*" means the minute you become a Christian, God loves you as much now as He will a billion years from now when you're perfect in heaven.

God says, "*The verdict is already in. You're not in any kind of suspense, so live in light of that.*"

Based upon this Gospel Paul jumps immediately to confront:

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—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But 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!

Galatians 1:6-8

Here's the key- The proper response to the Gospel.

Only when you're able to respond to His coming *because of His love*, are you then able to turn around and love Him, simply because of who He is to you.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

But if you believe-*God will give me my reward as long as I have done certain things to please Him.*

Which is another way of saying "*God doesn't love me for who I am. He only loves Me for what I do.*"

(Every other religion believes that.)

Because if it's about what you do you won't be focused on what He did.