

# REDEMPTION CHURCH

Mike Edwards | *A Gospel Punch to the Face*

## GALATIANS 1:3-12

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup>to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>6</sup>I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup>not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup>As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. <sup>10</sup>For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant[a] of Christ. <sup>11</sup>For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. <sup>12</sup>For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we don't see how God works in our current circumstances or when we try to lean into the future, but we can always look back and see God's faithfulness and His hand at work.

In our passage, Galatians 1:3-12, we see Paul hitting them with, "*I'm not mad, I'm disappointed...*" Ouch! To the Romans: "*I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you . . .*," the Philippians, "*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you . . .*," and the Corinthians, even with all of their problems, "*I give thanks to my God always for you . . .*" But not here! Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face with reality/truth. He goes on to say twice that if they continue to reject the Gospel, they are under God's curse.

### Sermon Notes:

**QUESTION:** WHY is Paul so worked up and writing this letter? Because the Gospel and Christ are inseparable and their souls are at stake. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16*

Jesus declared in Mark 1:14-15, "*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'*"

The case for Christ and the Gospels are inseparable. Jesus' message IS the Gospel and the Gospels bring us to Jesus. If we leave the Gospel, we leave Christ—going from freedom back to slavery.

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

### We are up against a variety of "other gospels":

The "get out of jail free" gospel, the "gimme gimme" gospel, and the "good for you" gospel. We can't cover every possible imitation, so we need to know the REAL thing!

**In the case of the Galatians, it was a group we call "the Judaizers."** Galatians 5:11-12. Yikes! They added to the gospel. Jesus + something, not Christ and Christ alone.

### What is the Gospel?

- Good tidings.

## GALATIANS 5:11-12

*"But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. <sup>12</sup>I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!"*

## GALATIANS 3:3

*"Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"*

## GALATIANS 5:7-9

*You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup>This persuasion is not from him who calls you. <sup>9</sup>A little leaven leavens the whole lump.*

## DISCUSS

- Where/when do you tend to go astray –what tends to lure you away from the Gospel most? Fill in the blank: "When I find myself drifting from the Gospel it's because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Behind every sin is a lie about God. What lie(s) are you being tempted by or believing?
- See [Galatians 6:1-2](#). What are some practical ways we fulfill the Law of Christ?

- The Gospel is PROCLAMATION: Christ giving Himself for our sins, willingly. Propitiation. Penal substitutionary atonement.
  - Jesus is the ultimate moral example and influence.
  - *Christus Victor*: He confronted the forces of death/evil and defeated them. Also, true; but what does it mean to truly *confront the power of death and evil* if not to deal with the sin holding us captive?
  - If we miss substitutionary and propitiatory aspects we miss the heart of atonement. This sacrifice is "once for all," not ongoing.
- Remember [Galatians 5:1](#)? We needed rescue, not a hand-up.
- Grace was His plan from the beginning. See [Acts 2:23](#)
- The Gospel is PROOF: Jesus proves it by doing what no one else could do (and the apostles explain it).

**The Gospel is both proclamation and proof that Jesus is Lord.** *He, the God-man, lived sinlessly, died sacrificially, rose victoriously, and will return triumphantly. Therefore there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus! Amen, that is Good News, indeed!*

When Jesus said to *repent and believe the Gospel* it wasn't just a one-time thing, it was an all-the-time thing (Galatians 3:3).

- What saves us will grow us!  
The golden chain of redemption: [Romans 8](#)
- Luther's 99 Theses: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

**The Gospel isn't just a starting point, it IS the point; not just the beginning of the path, but what paves the whole way!**

**Why do we leave it so quickly? (the speed of culture)**

- **Paul's time in Galatia and the letter.** Compare this week's 25 baptisms and professions of faith to then coming back later to a "woke" church.
- [Exodus 32:1-6](#) God's plan was subverted for man's.
- We attribute to men what is ultimately from God (but Paul says it's a revelation, not his own message)
- We focus on this present evil world/circumstances, not the rescuer (this is all just a blip on the eternal timeline).
- The yeast (sin) leavens the whole lump (Galatians 5:7-9).

**What do we do to live in line with the Gospel?**

1. Recognize the truth of the Gospel and repent when we stray.
2. Restore one another! ([Galatians 6:1-2](#))
3. Remain on the path! By the power and work of the Holy Spirit! See [Galatians 5:16-18](#)