

Christ Community Church

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Letters for Life

Galatians 1:6-10

(English Standard Version)

Peter Bartuska, Pastor

Notes

HAPPY 10-Year Anniversary

“The great commission is that we preach the gospel to every creature, but neither God nor the Bible says anything about forcing it down people's throats.”

Louis Zamperini, Devil at My Heels: A Heroic Olympian's Astonishing Story of Survival as a Japanese POW in World War II

“The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart.” **John Calvin**

John 20:30-31

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

Galatians 1:6

“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 ...”

“The idea of deserting is ‘transferring your allegiance’ and is used of soldiers who revolt or desert; men who change sides in war, politics or philosophy. It can mean a ‘renegade’ or a ‘turncoat’. The Galatians were in the process of becoming spiritual deserters from the Gospel of grace. They were about to become renegades to the true Gospel and turncoats for a false Gospel.” **Dr. Jack Arnold**

Acts 20:28-32

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

There are over 200 denominations in the United States alone and all are claiming their group has the truth. Some of these groups disagree as to the method or way of salvation in the Christian religion. Who do we believe? Which group is right? What is our authority?

Galatians 1:6

“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...”

Romans 8:28-30

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he

might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Galatians 1:6

“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...”

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Galatians 1:7

“...not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.” (NO Gospel at all)

Judaizers

The Judaizers were a faction of the Jewish Christians, both of Jewish and non-Jewish origins, who regarded the Levitical laws of the Old Testament as still binding on all Christians. They tried to enforce Jewish circumcision upon the Gentile converts to early Christianity and were strenuously opposed and criticized for their behavior by the Apostle Paul.

Substitutions, Perversions, Distortions

Galatians 1:8-9

“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 (eternally condemned). ⁹ 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.”

“Notice what Paul is NOT saying. He is NOT condemning infidels, agnostics, and atheists for false teaching, but men who claimed to be Christians. The Judaizers believed in Christ but believed in law-works as a cause of salvation. Anyone who rejects the true gospel and teaches a false gospel is to be rejected. If ANYONE brings a gospel other than the Gospel preached by the Apostles and recorded in the New Testament, it is to be rejected and so are false teachers to be rejected.” Dr. Jack Arnold

Galatians 1:10

“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 of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 7:14

“For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ.”

“The ‘bond-servant of Christ’ is not free to offer or withhold his ‘service’; his life is not his own, but belongs entirely to his Lord.”

Leon Morris

“To this day you will find many who seek to please men in order that they may live in peace and security. They teach whatever is agreeable to men, no matter whether it is contrary to God’s Word or their own conscience. Be we who endeavor to please God and not men, stir up hell itself. We must suffer reproach, slanders, and death.” Martin Luther

The ”L” of Life

1) Simple and Clear Message

“We lost it all. He (Jesus) did it all. We get it all.” Randy Pope

Romans 1:16-17

“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.”

“If the focus of our testimony is our changed life, we as well as our hearers are bound to be disappointed.” **Michael S. Horton**

2) How to avoid being a “MAN-PLEASER”?

Mark 12:28-31

“And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, ‘Which commandment is the most important of all?’²⁹ Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.’”

“If loving God with all our heart and soul and might is the greatest commandment, then it follows that not loving Him that way is the greatest sin.” **R.A. Torrey**

“The key, then, to loving God is to see Jesus, to hold him before the mind with as much fullness and clarity as possible. It is to adore him.” **Dallas Willard**