



CLEAR THE AIR

Burning Issues
Confronting Christians Today



Dangerous Religious Fads and Trends

GALATIANS 1:3–10

STUDY GUIDE

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Dangerous Religious Fads and Trends
(Galatians 1:3–10)

WELCOME:

Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Each GG member thinks of two truths and one lie about their own spiritual journey or understanding of the Gospel. One by one, each shares their three statements (without revealing which is the lie). The rest of the group tries to guess which statement is the lie. After the group makes their guess, the GG member reveals the lie and briefly explains the truths.

WORSHIP:

Adoring
Our God

Suggested song:

[Amazing Grace](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will gain a deeper understanding of what the true Gospel entails and why it matters.
2. GG members will discern the characteristics of false teachings and the importance of doctrinal integrity.
3. GG members will reflect on the nature of Christian servitude: pleasing God versus pleasing people.
4. GG members will draw practical applications for their daily walk with Christ - in their personal lives and in our church community.

INTRODUCTION

Written by Paul, this epistle is not just a letter but a passionate response to troubling news from Galatia. The Galatian church, initially grounded in the true Gospel, was being swayed by teachings that distorted the essence of their faith. Paul writes not only to correct but also to clarify and reaffirm the core of Christian belief: the grace and peace found in Jesus Christ. In this passage, we'll explore the rich themes of God's grace, the centrality of the Gospel, the dangers of deviating from the truth, and the importance of serving Christ above all.

Paul greeted the Galatian church (vv. 3-5)

Paul greeted the church with grace and peace from God and Jesus Christ, who bought our peace through his priceless sacrifice, according to God's will. Because of this peace and grace from God, he is worthy and deserving of all glory, honor, and praise.

1. What are the two key elements of Paul's greeting, and from whom do these come?
2. Why do you think Paul chose to emphasize "grace and peace" in his greeting?
3. What was the reason for Jesus Christ's giving of himself? Whose will is it that Jesus should sacrifice himself?
4. How does Christ's sacrifice reflect the core message of the Gospel?
5. Why does God deserve all the glory for all eternity?

Application

Because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we have grace and peace with God. As those who are recipients of this gift, it is only right that we glorify God in our everyday activities. How are you experiencing God's grace and peace, and how are you glorifying God in your daily life?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Paul was astonished at the church’s desertion of the gospel (vv. 6-9)

Paul told the church how astonished he was that they were quickly abandoning the gospel he had preached. They were being misled by others who distorted the gospel message. Paul declared that these people are accursed.

1. How did Paul describe the speed at which the church deserted the gospel?
2. How did Paul describe this “different gospel” to which the church was turning?
3. What did Paul say should happen to those who preach a different gospel?
4. What distortions of the gospel are present in this day and age?

Application

How can you guard yourself against “different gospels” that distort the true gospel of Jesus Christ? How can you ensure that the gospel you share stays true to the gospel originally taught by the apostles?

Paul defended his motives (v. 10)

Paul defended and differentiated himself from the false teachers. He was a servant of Christ and wanted to please Christ by faithfully doing what he was commissioned to do. On the other hand, the false teachers were preaching a distorted gospel that aimed to please those who heard their message.

1. Who did Paul say he was trying to please?
2. How did Paul describe himself in relation to Jesus Christ?
3. Why did Paul make a contrast between pleasing man and pleasing God?

Application

Reflect on your own life and ministry. How can you ensure that your motivation behind them is to please God? What or who may pressure you to please people instead, and how can you overcome this?

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WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

PRAYER ITEM

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude for the boundless grace and peace that You offer us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we delve into the words of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 1:3-10, we are reminded of the preciousness of the true Gospel.

Lord, help us to embrace and hold fast to the unchanging truth of Your Gospel. Guard our hearts against any distortions or false teachings that may seek to lead us astray. May we, like Paul, be unwavering in our commitment to serve Christ, seeking Your approval above all else. In moments of doubt or confusion, grant us discernment to distinguish between the genuine gospel and deceptive voices. Strengthen our faith that we may boldly proclaim the message of grace and salvation found in Jesus Christ.

As we study your Word, it may inform our minds and transform our lives. May the lessons from your Word resonate in our hearts and guide our actions so that we may be faithful stewards of the gospel in a world that needs Your truth and grace. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. ■



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Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1357 📍 Greenhills Christian Fellowship 📺 GCF Main