

Galatians 1:1-10

Spot It & Set Off The Alarm Bells



Introduction

What is the context of the letter to the Galatians?

What was the purpose and occasion?

Why did Paul write this letter?

What had happened to the Galatian believers?

Outline

Gal 1:1-5 While greeting the Galatians, Paul re-establishes his God-given apostolic authority and reminds them of the gospel of Jesus. (See also Gal 2:7-9)

Gal 1:6-10 Paul reprimands the Galatians for accepting a different gospel while denouncing those who distort the gospel, testifying that he seeks only God's approval. (See also Gal 2:11-14, 4:9-10, 5:2, 6:12-13 and finally Gal 2:16)

False Gospels	Scripture	What is wrong?	Mindsets
The Prosperity Gospel 	1 Timothy 6:10	Makes blessing or prosperity the reason for us following God	"If you follow God, he will bless you." "If you have enough faith, God will give you the things that you need." "The reason why you are struggling so much is because you don't have faith."
The Legalistic Gospel 	Galatians 3:2-3	Says believers must earn and keep God's favour by following rules	"God loves me less because I just messed up" "God is distant now because you didn't go to church or you missed Bible reading or you are a horrible Christian" "Be better"
The Therapeutic Gospel 	Luke 9:23-24	Says following God is all about improving your own self-esteem, happiness and emotional well-being	"Jesus just wants me to be happy" "God accepts me just as I am" "Just follow your heart and be true to yourself"
The Universalist Gospel 	Acts 4:12	Says that because God is loving, all people will be saved whether they place their faith in Jesus or not.	"All religions teach basically the same thing" "We are all God's children" "As long as you are sincere, God accepts you" "Jesus is one way to God, but not the only way"

Can You Spot It?

1. True or False: Salvation is a free gift of God's grace, received through faith alone, and cannot be earned by good deeds.
2. True or False: If you have enough faith, God will reward you with financial wealth and physical health.
3. True or False: Believers are saved by grace, but they must maintain their salvation through their good moral behaviour.
4. True or False: Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose from the dead, fully satisfying God's justice
5. True or False: "God is far away from me because I didn't go to church or missed Bible reading. I am a horrible Christian".
6. True or False: "God wants me to follow my heart and be true to myself"

Final Reflections: When you spot it, will you "report" it?

1. If non-believers comment that the sufficient work of Christ makes Christians less credible - "just believe, can already", how would you respond?
2. How might a new Christian convert "carry over" the mindset of a works-based approach in his newfound faith in God & Jesus?
3. How might 'long-time Christians' be "performing" in their Christian lives to gain God's favour?