

Galatians 1:10-24 Discussion Guide

Galatians 1:10-24

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.

¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

Paul's great concern in writing to the churches of Galatia is the purity of the Gospel as it was handed to him and as he gave it to them. As with nearly every generation of Christians since, the churches were being tempted to add to the Good News of salvation by grace through faith.

Paul is adamant that if you add anything to the Gospel, then what you are left with is no longer Gospel. You are seeking salvation by your own works and you are accursed before God.

Paul doesn't intend for the Galatians' faith to be blind. He uses verses 10-24 to offer some logical proof about why the Gospel he has committed his life to preaching came from God and not from man. He offers four specific proofs in this passage.

- 1) **The first proof that Paul's ministry was given by God's favor is that Paul received the Gospel alongside suffering, not prosperity. (v.10)**
- 2) **The second proof that Paul's ministry was given by God is that Paul received the Gospel he preached from Christ, not an earthly authority. (vv. 11-12, 16b-24)**
- 3) **The third proof that Paul's ministry was given by God is that Paul received the Gospel when he was not seeking the approval of the Church. (vv. 13-14)**
- 4) **The fourth proof that Paul's ministry was given by God is that Paul received the Gospel with a compulsion to preach it where it had not been heard. (vv. 15-16)**

Paul's entire life after his conversion to Christ was compelled by the glory of God (v. 24) and not by the opinions of other people. If we are to follow Jesus, we must take this approach as well.

Discussion Questions

- **Is peer pressure positive, negative, or neutral?**
- **What are some of the biggest areas of peer pressure that we experience in different stages of life?**
- **Has there been a time when you did something to please other people that ended up costing you big time?**
- **What are the costs of living to please God?**
- **How do we know that Paul was motivated by something other than peer pressure?**
- **Does Paul's ignoring of the opinions of others help or hurt his declaration of the Gospel?**
- **Was Paul's suffering used to adorn the Gospel?**
- **How might Paul have been tempted to change the Gospel to please others?**
- **How can the traditions of the church lead to tainting the Gospel?**
- **Why is it compulsory to preach the Gospel in places where it is not being preached?**
- **How can we as a church engage in taking the Gospel to the unreached?**