

January 30 & 31

GRACE

GALATIANS

John Fuller, Senior Pastor

INTRODUCTION

This week, Pastor John introduced the book of Galatians by talking about chapter one and how being “just a little bit off” in the Gospel of Christ is bad news. The Gospel is the Good News about what Jesus did for us; it is the only power that can rescue us from the evil of this age. The Gospel message can’t be “close enough” to the original message; this will never satisfy us or rescue us from evil. Nor can the Gospel be changed to “Grace AND...” anything else. This perversion of the Good News is caused by our pride and need for seeking knowledge and wisdom from the world. The real Gospel is good news for us IF AND ONLY IF it doesn’t depend on us.

DISCUSSION

Read through Galatians 1 out loud as a group and discuss the following questions.

1. In verses 1-2, Paul asserts his authority as an apostle of Christ. If you were asked to assert your authority as a disciple, or follower of Christ, how would you do it? What would you say? Write it out in one or two sentences. Was it hard to describe without “adding” to the Gospel?
2. There are many variations of the “Grace AND...” doctrine Paul is writing about in verses 6-10. What are some perversions of the Gospel that are prevalent in our society today? How have these perversions affected your faith walk?
3. Paul’s life as described in verses 11-24 is a testament to the true power of the Gospel. Share with the group a person [or yourself] who has gone through a life-altering change because of believing in the true Gospel of Christ.

THINK ABOUT IT

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved,” [John 10:9]. This is the essence of the Gospel—the only way to be saved is through the Jesus gate. Jesus doesn’t say that to enter the gate of salvation we need to pray harder, read more, give to the poor or even tell people about Him. These are all things He wants us to do but aren’t necessary for salvation. We only need to enter the gate, which is a symbol for Jesus. Believe in Him. Trust Him. Take that first step, that Faith Line step through the Jesus gate.

DO SOMETHING

1. Every day this week, reread Galatians 1. Journal each day what God reveals to you through this Scripture and share it with your group at the next meeting.
2. As a group, commit to a time of prayer outside of your regular meeting time when you can pray for strength like Paul to share the true Gospel with the people in your circle who need to be rescued from the power of evil in their lives. As prompted by the Spirit, reach out to those whom God puts on your heart and begin that relationship bridge necessary to point them toward Christ.

For more information, contact grouplife@prairielakeschurch.org.