
Mission 119 Ministries

GALATIANS: THE GRACE GOSPEL UNDER ATTACK

LESSON 2: PERFORMANCE HATES GRACE

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REVIEW

- **Eternal salvation is received by faith plus nothing!**
 - **God satisfied when He raised Jesus from the dead—there is simply nothing left for men to do but receive what has been done for us (Galatians 1:1, 4)**
 - **This is the consistent NT teaching, e.g., Romans 1:16, 3:21-28; 1 Corinthians 1:17-23; John 1:12; Galatians 3:1, 6-7**
 - **But the Judaizers teach faith plus circumcision, faith plus keeping the Law, faith plus...**
 - **Modern day performance gospel folks do the same**
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REVIEW

- **Verses 1:6-7 — performance gospel, however, is not another gospel at all (recall verse 6 speaks to “another” of a different kind and verse 7 to “another” of the same kind)**
 - **Performance gospel proponents use human philosophy to overwrite the text—what we call eisogesis**
 - **They are modern-day Judaizers who stack inference upon inference and lay claim to the “moral high ground” arguing that a gospel where a person receives eternal salvation by faith alone is easy believes and a license to sin**
 - **Their “gospel” is one of bondage (2:4) and manipulation (2:14)**
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PERFORMANCE HATES GRACE

- **Galatians 1:10: For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**
 - **Paul says “now” looking back to verses 8-9 regarding the gospel, where he had harsh things to say**
 - **The performance gospel folks accuse Paul of preaching to please people—a criticism aimed directly at the teaching that eternal salvation is through grace by faith alone**
 - **They say you cannot just believe, you must commit, pay a high cost, etc.**
 - **Preaching a grace gospel will result in the performance gospel folks accusing you of trying to be a men pleaser!**
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JESUS' GRACE GOSPEL

- **Galatians 1:11: But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**
 - **The grace gospel has divine, not human, origin**
 - **Recall Paul's Damascus Road experience (Acts 9, 22, 26)**
 - **The grace gospel Paul preached came directly from our Lord Jesus Christ**
 - **Implied contrast: performance gospels derive from human philosophy NOT THE BIBLE**
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PROOF OF DIVINE ORIGIN

- **Galatians 1:13: For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.**
 - **Proof from Paul's pre-conversion conduct**
 - **He persecuted the church and advanced in Judaism and its traditions, which are the basis for the performance gospel but not the gospel Paul teaches**
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PROOF OF DIVINE ORIGIN

- **Galatians 1:15: But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.**
 - **Proof from Paul's commission**
 - **Set aside from his mother's womb to be an apostle to the Gentiles (this was of divine origin like his gospel)**
 - **After Paul himself was saved on the Damascus Road he did not confer with "flesh and blood" to develop his doctrine**
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PROOF OF DIVINE ORIGIN

- **Galatians 1:17: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.**
 - **Proof from Paul's post-conversion conduct**
 - **He did not go immediately to Jerusalem but to Arabia, apparently to study, then returned to Damascus**
 - **He had limited contact (15 days) with the apostles and only after a three-year delay (see Acts 9:28-29, 22:17-21)**
 - **So he did not get his gospel in Jerusalem**
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PROOF OF DIVINE ORIGIN

- **Galatians 1:19: But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. 20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. 21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; 22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: 23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. 24 And they glorified God in me.**
 - **Paul only saw Peter and James on the first trip and hardly had time in 15 days to get all of his doctrine there**
 - **He then traveled to Syria and Cilicia (where Tarsus is) where he was not known but known of because Paul had persecuted them in the past**
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SO WHAT

- **Don't let modern day Judaizers, whatever their label, convince you of another gospel—for Paul says there is no other gospel**
 - **The grace gospel has divine origin from Jesus himself and is not the result of human reasoning**
 - **It cannot be altered through hermeneutical gymnastics because over 150 times the Bibles links receiving eternal salvation to faith plus nothing**
 - **The performance gospel is no moral or philosophical high ground by making getting saved difficult and of high cost—the opposite is true because it degrades the gospel into something human in origin and effort, whether to earn salvation, keep it or validate it**
 - **It is finished**
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