

ONLY ONE GOSPEL – EXPLORING GALATIANS

Talk 1 – Gal 1:1-10 – Why turn to another Gospel?

Small group questions

Leaders – Choose *some* from the following. Don't feel the need to work through every one!

If the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer,
please contact bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

Do you know of people who have been freed from a situation (or addiction), only to find themselves taken captive by something else?

Read Galatians 1:1-10.

1. The Gospel in a nutshell.

1. Reflecting on the essence of the gospel message as outlined by Paul (Jesus giving himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age), how does this message resonate with your understanding of Christianity?
2. In what ways does the gospel provide hope and liberation from the challenges and struggles of our present age?
3. How can we communicate the simplicity and clarity of the gospel to others in our everyday interactions and relationships?

2. So – what are you thinking?

1. Discuss Paul's astonishment at the Galatians turning to a different gospel. Have you ever been surprised or troubled by someone's departure from the true gospel message?
2. Explore the temptation to add to or subtract from the gospel in today's context. What are some examples of beliefs or practices that might distort the purity of the gospel message?
3. How can we guard against the allure of legalism or self-reliance and instead remain rooted in the grace and freedom offered by Christ?
4. Share personal insights or reflections on how you've come to understand and embrace the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice in your own life.

3. This absolutely matters!

1. Why is Paul so worked about this – calling down curses on those who preach another Gospel?
2. Consider the implications of preaching a distorted gospel or misleading others about the true nature of salvation. How might this impact individuals, communities, and the witness of the church?
3. How can we remain clear in promoting and defending the true gospel message within our spheres of influence, both within the church and in the broader society?

4. I don't care what people think!

1. Explore the tension between seeking approval from others and prioritising obedience to God and reflect on the courage and conviction demonstrated by Paul in his willingness to prioritise pleasing God over pleasing people. How can we cultivate a similar mindset in our own lives?
2. Share personal experiences or challenges you've faced in standing firm in your faith despite opposition or criticism from others.
3. Discuss practical ways we can develop a greater concern for pleasing God above all else in our daily lives and decision-making processes.
4. How can we support and encourage one another in remaining steadfast in our faith and convictions, even when it may be unpopular or difficult?

Prayer idea – Gracious God, thank you for the clarity and power of the gospel message, which reminds us of your boundless love and grace. We ask for your guidance and strength to apply the truths we've explored to our everyday lives. Help us to remain rooted in the simplicity and purity of the gospel, resisting the temptation to add to or subtract from its message. Grant us wisdom and discernment as we navigate the complexities of our world, standing firm in our faith and convictions even in the face of opposition or misunderstanding. May our lives be a testimony to your grace and truth, drawing others into a deeper relationship with you. May your presence go with us now and always, guiding us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.