

“The Gospel Completely and Totally Transforms”

Galatians 1:11-24

*“If a sinner goes free, someone must die to vindicate the infinite worth of God’s glory that the sinner defamed.”
(John Piper)*

- Galatians 1:10-12: Paul’s Authority is given by Christ, for Christ’s glory (Acts 2:42). *“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)*
 - Paul was not seeking man’s approval, he was seeking God’s approval in his life (Galatians 1:10). Paul’s message was not man’s message, it was Christ’s message (Galatians 1:11). Paul did not receive this message from a man, he received this message directly from Christ (Galatians 1:12; cf. Acts 26:16-18).
- Galatians 1:13: There is a unity in the “church of God.” *“There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6)*
- Galatians 1:16b-17: Paul did not immediately go to the Apostles to get confirmation on the gospel message. He immediately started preaching the gospel after receiving it from Jesus (Acts 9:19-22).
- Galatians 1:18-22: Paul did not receive his authority to preach the gospel from the Apostles, but it was confirmed that the Apostles and Paul shared the same gospel (Acts 9:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-11).
- Galatians 1:13: The Gospel radically transforms our lives:
 - *“For you have heard of my former life in Judaism...”: “though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.” (Philippians 3:4-7)*
 - *Circumcision:* Signs or sacraments don’t save. *The people of Israel:* Ethnicity doesn’t save. *The tribe of Benjamin:* Lineage doesn’t save....The son born in the promised land/first king/loyal to the Davidic Covenant (Judah). *Hebrew of Hebrews:* Being faithful to the language and the traditions doesn’t save. *Phariseeism:* Religion doesn’t save. *Passion:* Zeal, sincerity, and commitment doesn’t save.
 - *“...how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.”: “And Saul approved of his [Stephen’s] execution....But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison” (Acts 8:1a,3). “But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem” (Acts 9:1-2). “I myself [Paul] was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities” (Acts 26:9-11; cf. 1 Timothy 1:12-16).*
 - *“...so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.” (These are the oral laws that were added to the written law for modern situations, found in what is called the Talmud.): “And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, ‘Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with*

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Worship: How Great Thou Art — Various Artists In Christ Alone — The Gettys
Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) — Chris Tomlin

Service Times: Sundays: Pneumatology Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

defiled hands?’ And He [Jesus] said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.’ And He said to them, ‘You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!’ ” (Mark 7:5-9)

- Titus 2:11-14: The Gospel always radically transforms!
 - 1) Jesus has appeared offering salvation for all people.
 - 2) This salvation trains us to renounce (formally declare one's abandonment of) ungodliness and worldly passions.
 - 3) This salvation trains us to live self-controlled, upright, godly lives NOW!
 - 4) This salvation will be finished in glorification.
 - 5) Jesus redeemed us to live holy lives and to be zealous for good works (cf. 1 Peter 1:13-19).

→**Prayer Points for Day of Prayer (Wednesday, September 28th):**

- Pray for wisdom and steadfastness for our Elders and Deacons as they lead and serve the church body. (1 Corinthians 15:58; James 1:5)
- Pray that as a church body we would have wisdom in this decision about either staying at our current location or moving to the church building across the street. Pray that as a church body we would delight in being cheerful givers as we trust the Lord's provision for us. (James 1:5; 2 Corinthians 9:6-12)
- Pray that as a church body we would strive to increasingly love God with all our hearts, and souls, and minds, and strength. (Mark 12:30)
- Pray that as a church body we would grow in our love for one another, in our humility, gentleness, patience, and unity. (John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:12-17)

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** *This is the LAST week* that we are collecting monetary donations for Shannon and Vikki Bobb, a missionary couple that is currently living and serving in Cambodia. For more information about them and the work they are currently doing, please see the sign in the lobby. There is a container on the back table, beside the offering box, to collect your monetary donations. You can also donate via Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Bobbs when you do so!

★**PUMPKIN PATCH: LADIES,** we are planning a Ladies Pumpkin Patch Fellowship Outing THIS Saturday, October 1st, at 2pm. If you are interested in going, please let Courtney Dees know as soon as possible, so that she can arrange carpooling and finalize the plans.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

★**CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER:** Our monthly day of prayer as a church body will be THIS Wednesday, September 28th. We ask that you set aside specific time on this day to pray for the leaders and the ministries of our church body. There are specific prayer points on the back of your sermon notes.

★**COMMUNION:** We will be celebrating and partaking of communion together NEXT Sunday, October 2nd, together as a church body.

★**MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a Members Meeting NEXT Sunday, October 2nd, to discuss and vote on the potential move to the church building across the street. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for this important meeting!