



From Law To Life: Experiencing Grace (2/1/09)

Today's Sermon Text: Galatians 1:11-24

Galatians is a letter written by Paul, a missionary/church planter in the early church. He had preached the gospel in Galatia (modern-day Turkey), people had believed, and a new church was planted. Paul then went off to plant new churches in different areas.

But shortly after Paul left Galatia, false teachers came into the church in Galatia preaching a different message than Paul. Paul's message had been that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus. There is nothing else a person must do in order to be accepted by God. In fact, there is nothing else a person CAN do. Jesus alone is able to save us, because he alone is the Savior God sent to live a righteous life and die a sacrificial death in place of sinners.

But the false teachers message was that, although Jesus is necessary, he is not sufficient. They told the Galatians that they must also conform to Jewish religious law in order to be made right with God.

So Paul has written this letter to the Galatians in order to correct false teaching and solidify the gospel of Jesus in the heart and mind of the church. Because we are aware of how susceptible we are of the tendency to "depart from the gospel" on a daily basis, confusing God's blessing in Christ with other things like the "American Dream" of health, wealth, and prosperity, along with our tendency towards looking to our performance to give us a sense of righteousness before God/man/ourselves, Galatians is a very important book of the Bible to study, understand, and live out.