



From Law To Life: One True Gospel (1/25/09)

**Today's Sermon Text: Galatians 1:6-10**

The Gospel is the good news that God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to do for sinners what we couldn't do for ourselves. Jesus lived the life we couldn't live and died the death we should've died in order to justify us before God, forgive us of our sin, and make us God's children. All we must do is trust in the finished work of Christ in order to be made children of God and receive salvation. **Gospel is *different* than Religion in that religion says, "if I obey God, He will love me and accept me," while the Gospel says, "God loves me and accepts me in Christ, so now I am FREE to obey God as an act of *love* for God and neighbor."**

But because our natural default mode is religion, which is sinful man trying to prove ourselves worthy of God's acceptance, we constantly "*forget*" the true gospel of God's grace and move back into a religious, self-righteous way of life, even as Christians.

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he is writing to a church that he had started by preaching the message of God's grace through Christ. But after Paul had left to start new churches, other teachers came into their young church and began preaching a different message, telling these Galatians that they needed not only faith in Jesus to be accepted by God, but that they also needed to obey Jewish law and be circumcised. Paul's message had been Jesus + nothing = salvation; the false teacher's message was Jesus + circumcision = salvation. Paul was writing this letter to REMIND the Galatians of the message of the one true gospel and show how any other gospel is no gospel at all.