

GALATIANS / THE THRILL OF TRUE FREEDOM
“THE REAL GOSPEL” Galatians 1:1-12
June 1, 2014

(Technical Difficulties were experienced, so the Message Did Not Record. Therefore, we are providing a condensed copy of the Pastor's Notes.)

CONDENSED MESSAGE NOTES

Good Morning!

- I Love Roller Coasters.
- I can remember my first real roller coaster.
- as we started up the incline...click, click, click, click...was not sure what to expect, but as it went down into the loops and all around the ride... I was hooked, I loved it.
- I became an avid fan of roller coasters from that point forward.

From now until August, we will be in a series through Galatians.

- Experiencing life with Jesus was like my first time on a coaster...a little nervous about it, but once I experienced it, I have loved it and never looked back.
 - There is something incredible and thrilling about the freedom experienced on a coaster.
 - the thrills of the speed, the turns, the moments of weightlessness, the anticipation...it is so great.
- There is something incredible and freeing about a life lived for Jesus Christ.
 - Freedom and life with Christ is what Paul seeks to teach us in this letter.
- The thing is that some don't experience the True Freedom that Christ offers.
 - True Freedom is what we will unpack as we journey through Galatians.
- Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."
- This verse will have more meaning as we study through Galatians.
- I hope to challenge you and grow your faith and relationship over the next few months.
 - There may be some things you really have to chew on, think about....

-READ GALATIANS 1:1-12

- written around 50 AD
- less than 20 years after resurrection of Christ
- written to churches Paul planted in Galatia
- Paul would go to town, preach gospel, they would respond
 - Paul would leave behind leaders to lead the churches
- Paul would lead, teach, shepherd through letters, too.
 - This is such a letter.
- Paul is responding to issues in Galatia that he had heard.

- difference in Galatians and other letters Paul wrote in NT....
 - v. 6 / I am astonished...
 - launches right in with strong tone bc spiritual freedom was under attack bc the gospel was being distorted.
- I can understand Paul...I am ASTONISHED, too, at some of the teachings that Pastors and churches teach, today, too...and how they distort the Gospel and teachings of Jesus.
- Paul was shocked how easily/quickly the Galatian Christians had abandoned the TRUE gospel bc. He knew that it would mess up everything else in their entire lives.
- If they get the Gospel wrong, their relationships, their lives, their everything was not going to be the way that God intended for them to be.
- Paul was not going to sit back while they abandon the TRUE Gospel.
- Take this to heart...THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING and can Impact every area of your life.
- What gives Paul right to do this...v.1-2 / He was an apostle called directly by God.
 - He is speaking out of His own story.
 - will look at Paul / Saul's story next week.
- Acts 9 / Conversion of Paul
 - God stepped right into the middle of Paul's life.
 - Jesus radically changed his life.
- Paul wants to remind them that HE has the AUTHORITY to speak on this and has the AUTHORITY to write this letter and correct the false teachings and doctrine.
- Paul doesn't address the Non-Christians, but the Christians.
 - It does not matter how long you have been in church, been a Christian...we can never lose sight of the Gospel.
 - need to always be reminded of the Gospel.
 - need to always know YOUR NEED of the Gospel.
- Paul thinks believers need to be reminded of the Gospel. EVERYONE!
 - DAILY be reminded of what Christ has done for us / the person we are to live for.
 - DAILY be reminded that it is not our Power, but the power of God that saves us and gives us the strength to live life.
- Paul starts reminding the Christians of the True Gospel.
- Re-read vs. 6-9
- Circle in your Bible vs. 6-9 /
- What is the True Gospel
- READ I Corinthians 15:3-6
- The Gospel does not affect parts of your life...It IS your whole life...

Romans 1:16, "6 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power of God** that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. "

 - I want you to write all these verses down today and really think about them this week in light of our study this morning.
 - Part of making Galatians real to you is not just going on my words, but experiencing scripture for yourself.

- Just like you can't experience a roller coaster based on my description, you have to ride it yourself....You can't experience the fullness of the Gospel based on my words, you have to experience it yourself---Think and reflect and pray on the verses from this morning.

I Corinthians 15

- This is the Gospel in its simplest and richest form.
- God loved you, sent Jesus to save you from your sins.
 - Jesus lived, died, was buried, was raised, and now is in Heaven with Father preparing to be with those who choose Him.
- Some of you have accepted the Gospel, others have heard it.
 - Have you really thought about it and what THE REAL GOSPEL means.
 - I don't mean the Gospel that has been added to by man or tradition..I mean the Real Gospel as I Corinthians 15 says it and as Paul teaches us to live it.

--Galatians 1:4 / to rescue / deliver Us

- we are people who need to be delivered.
- we are enslaved to sin..not perfect people.
- Romans 6 says we are either slaves to sin or slaves to righteousness/Christ.
 - you can't be both...shows us that sin exists!
 - SIN EXISTS!!
 - No matter what world may say, there is sin in this world.
 - There are ways you should live, ways you should not...will see this later in series.

---Jesus Rescues you from sin...Jesus is what saves you...not what you do for Him.

- Jesus gave HIMSELF for our sins...all you do is accept what He did.
- Gospel / 2 places to spend forever...Heaven or Hell.

--Gospel sets us free...comes from God, does not derive from Man.

- Jesus fulfills every promise made about Him in the OT / He is the Messiah
 - what makes you a Christian is not simply that you follow Jesus' teaching & beliefs.
 - Too many people live a works-based faith relationship with Christ.
 - Many do it without even realizing it...do you!?!?!?

--There's not a Christian Check-list. (church, read bible, give to poor, be nice)

- There is Accept Jesus as Savior...Live for Him!
- If your relationship is based on a Check list, then you are not experiencing the TRUE FREEDOM that Christ offers.
- Don't get me wrong here, I am not saying those check-list things are bad...those are essential to a growing Christian, but those are not what save a person...and that's what some Christians hinge Their Salvation on...those items on the checklist, rather than Jesus Christ, Himself.
- Grow in Him, Learn about Him, Strive to live life like Him.
- I Peter 2:2-3...Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk... Grow in relationship with Him.
- It is not the number of Bible verses you know that get you into Heaven, but your relationship and accepting Jesus as your Savior.

Romans 5:8, "8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- There was nothing you could have done to cause Jesus to die for you, or to stop Him from dying to cover your sins.
 - It was not based on your works, but it was based on the LOVE AND GRACE of God and our Savior.

-I love you because I love you...that's what God says to us thru Jesus.

---this letter and its contents may really stretch you in your thinking, theology, and relationship with Jesus...good.

---As I read and thought about the passage in Galatians 1 this week, What really impressed upon my heart was that I have NOT taken the "I" out of my relationship with Jesus Christ.

-It is not about me, it's all about Jesus.

-This is where it may get uncomfortable for some....did for me.

Let's look at 3 verses and then I'll make my points.

-Write these down to reflect on this week as you think about the Gospel and what it means for you and your relationship with Jesus.

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Galatians 6:14, "**14** May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

Luke 9:23-26, "Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. **25** What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? **26** Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

---SELF...that's what struck me really hard in thinking about the Gospel.

-With Jesus Christ, it's never about me, except for the fact that Christ has saved me.

-With the Gospel, it is all about Jesus Christ and what He has done...and continually does for us!

-We let "self" and "I" get too much in our relationship with Jesus.

--As I look at areas of my life I want to change, I realize the reason they aren't changing...

--"I" am getting in the way!

---Has taken me a while, but I realize that I don't change areas of my life, Jesus does...and I have to turn those areas over to him, let go and let Him do the work.

-We can read a hundred self-help books, but the reason you have to read so many and don't get it accomplished is because "you, me, I" can't do it. God can!!

-I don't change me, but the power of God does.

-I didn't save myself, but Christ did.

--same in leading someone to meet Jesus.

-I don't change them, but I lead them to Jesus, and His Spirit does the changing.

---The reason you and I need to reflect on The Real, Pure Gospel and Galatians 2:20, Galatians 6:14, and Luke 9:23-26 is because when we don't remove the "I" from our relationship with Jesus, the harm is that we tend to rely on self, on our strength and power, rather than on God.

-The Real Gospel reminds us, teaches us that only Christ can save us, and there is nothing we can do to earn Salvation...we just accept it and live in it.

-The Real Gospel reminds us that it is not our power and strength, but the power and strength of Christ that we really need in our lives.

Here are some common "I" thoughts...

-----**"I'm a good person"** – means "I" can earn salvation, freedom, eternal life by my good works.

-focus is on persons performance and not on what God has done for you.

--The Gospel can never be based on a foundation of YOU. The foundation of the Gospel must always be on Jesus Christ and what he has done for YOU.

----**"I can do what I want"**

--Some don't like Jesus' rules/version of Christianity.

-No one's going to stop ME from doing what I want // This is Selfishness.

-Jesus is not an insurance policy

-This "I" thinking is forgetting that the gospel, when we see it face to face...that it produces a DESIRE to live to honor and please God.

-If there is no desire to please God, then have we really come face to face with Jesus?!

-Desire to have things Gods way...not YOUR Way.

-Jesus died for your sins and you should REPENT...REPENT...understand that word.

-Repentance --- not to live a life of always saying sorry, but NOT doing it again!

--**"I'm too bad"**

-Your sin is not too bad for God's Grace.

-Don't put limits on the forgiveness and grace of God.

-His love, His grace, His salvation is limitless.

-You may say, "I'm" too bad, but God says, I am greater than You and can save you from anything and offer you forgiveness for anything.

---There is an incredible freedom and power that comes from removing the "I" in our relationship with Jesus and LEARNING to live simply in the Grace and Power of the TRUE GOSPEL.

-There is no Gospel 2.0...There is only one version, and we can't change it...it changes us.

-If there is someone changing the gospel, adding to the Gospel, they are a false teacher...and woe to them.

-Revelation 22 warns us about adding to or taking away from scripture....

--Roller Coaster Thought

-The Coaster Car is what keeps you grounded and enjoying the ride.

-Jesus is what keeps you grounded, your foundation in life, to keep you from getting thrown from the track so you can enjoy "the ride".

--Paul wrote to fight / defend the freedom that comes with the Gospel.

-Freedom that Jesus came to give us / Jesus came to set us free.

---THE REAL GOSPEL is not based on you...The Real Gospel is based on Jesus Christ.

---The answer is not a church, not a person, not a self-help book...the answer is Jesus.

-That's the Real Gospel.

-Begin to come to terms with what the Gospel means to you this week.