Fool’s Gold February 11, 2018

*Galatians 1:1-10 Series: How God Sets People Free*

*Medicine becomes poison if you tamper with the recipe.*

Intro: Why did Sébastian Bras give back his Michelin stars?

1. The gospel saves us from a dying world.
2. Paul’s outrage dispels the pleasantries.

v. 2 *To the churches of Galatia*

* + Romans 1:7 *To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints*

v. 6 *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him*

Exodus 32:19 *And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.*

1. The gospel is the good news of Jesus’ gift.

v. 3 *Grace to you and peace*

v. 6 *him who called you in the grace of Christ*

1. The gospel is the good news of Jesus’ reversal.

vv. 3-4 *the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins*

1. The gospel is the good news of Jesus’ rescue.

v. 4 *to deliver us from the present evil age*

* What was Paul so astonished about? What makes it harder for us to be astonished by the same things today?
* What does it mean to say that Jesus “gave himself for our sins?”
* What does it mean to be “delivered from the present evil age?” What does that tell you about the nature of salvation?

1. The gospel saves us from fool’s gold.
2. Turning to a different gospel is a forsaking of God.

v. 6 *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him*

*who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel*

Acts 15:1 *But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”*

1. Turning to a different gospel is not good news.

vv. 6–7 *you … are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one*

v. 7 *there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ*

Jeremiah 23:16 *Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.*

1. Sharing a different gospel invites a curse.

v. 8 *even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.*

v. 9 *If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

* What does it take for us to be able to discern a different gospel? What does it take for us to care?
* What distortions of the gospel have you been exposed to?
* How can you recognize that you’re hearing a different gospel? What should you do?

1. The gospel saves us from a doormat’s trap.
2. People either trust in God’s Word or people’s words.

v. 1 *Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father*

v. 1 *who raised him from the dead*

1. People either seek God’s approval or people’s approval.

v. 10 *For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?*

1. People either seek to please God or please people.

v. 10 *Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

Acts 5:29 *But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”*

* What does “seeking the approval of man or God” have to do with a discussion of the gospel?
* How does seeking to please people get in the way of devotion to God?
* Where are you most tempted to seek people’s approval instead of God’s?
* How can faith in Christ free us from a slavery to people’s opinions?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Galatians 1:11-24.

Notes