

WRITE IT DOWN!

Why the Strong Words?

Getting Grace: A Study of Galatians

Galatians 1:6-10

February 17, 2008

LISTEN UP!

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I. The Occasion for Strong Words: What was going on?

- A. Some were **distorting** the Gospel (1:7)
- B. The Galatians were **deserting** the Gospel (1:6)

II. The Content of Strong Words: How Paul responds?

- A. **Dismay** toward the Galatians (1:6)
- B. **Definition** and **defense** of the true Gospel (1:7)
- C. **Damnation** of false teachers (1:8-9)

III. The Reason for Strong Words: Were they appropriate?

- A. Gospel distortion robs Christ of His glory (2:21)
- B. Gospel distortion negates the truth of God (4:16)
- C. Gospel distortion nullifies the grace of God (2:21)
- D. Gospel distortion keeps men and women from eternal life with God (2:16)

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Galatians 1:1-10 again. What is your immediate gut reaction to Paul's strong words here?
2. What is the Gospel? Can you state it quickly and completely? (if you're having trouble, look at 2:15-16 for some help!)
3. Why does Paul speak so strongly to the Galatian churches? What is going on according to these verses? What are the Galatians doing and why? (Can you fill in this early gap with specific detail from your complete reading of the letter? If not, read ahead again and see if you understand what concerns Paul.)
4. What is Paul's reaction to the Galatian believers? What is Paul's reaction to the false teachers in Galatia? Why is Paul's reaction to these two groups different?
5. Was Paul's reaction to the situation appropriate and legitimate, even though it's a bit shocking to us? Why or why not?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging in the text/message this week and why?
2. Why are we, in general, suspicious of and skeptical of passion and especially theological and religious passion?
3. What do you or would you "go to the mat" for in your life? What do you or would you fight for? Does the Gospel show up on your list? Why or why not?
4. Why are we continually prone to distort the Gospel and fall into the error that Christ's work is not enough and we must add our good works and obedience in order to be saved? Why is grace so hard for us to swallow? Why is grace seen as "dangerous?"
5. What should defending and contending for the Gospel look like in the world today? Does that fight look different inside the church and outside the church?

