Galatians Vol 1 | The Spirit of The Gospel

Week 01

False Gospels | Galatians 1:1-10

Overview

In Week 01 of this series, we began to read the letter of Galatians. The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to circulate among a group of churches in the region of Galatia, churches he loved dearly. Churches that had begun to fall for a false Gospel. A false gospel that told the churches that in order to truly be a Christian, you needed more than just faith in Jesus. You needed to become culturally Jewish. Following their laws, circumcision, feast days, etc.

And so we needed to discuss what the Gospel is.

From **The Bible Project:**
"The term 'Gospel' translates from the Greek word euangelion, meaning a 'good announcement' or 'good news'. In the Bible, this term specifically refers to the royal announcement that a new king has taken the throne." "In the New Testament, it refers to the announcement that Jesus has brought the reign of God to our world through his life, death, and resurrection from the dead."

And so Paul begins to call out the young churches. To see that they were falling for a Gospel other than what he had preached to them. A Gospel that added to faith in Jesus.

And so we find ourselves in a similar situation today. We can easily find ourselves following false gospels of our own. Probably not ones that do with Jewish dietary laws. But gospels that are pervasive in our world. Gospels that are so a part of The World that we may not even notice them.

So in Week 01, we meditate on the fact that Jesus + anything is not the Gospel and on the false gospels we all fall for.

Opening Questions - 10 min

Before reading the passage, take some time to ask these questions.

01 Where this week did you feel pressure to prove yourself, fit in, or get everything right? Can you name the thoughts that came up for you? What feelings did it bring up? Anxiety? Fear? Sadness?

02 What thoughts or feelings come to mind when you hear the word “Gospel”?

03 How do we tend to define the good life? How do we try and get it?

Scripture - 20 min

Open your Bibles to Galatians 1:1-10. Have one person read the passage out loud. Then another person read it again slowly.

01 What sticks out to you in the reading this week? Is there a word, phrase, or verse that stands out? Why do you think it is?
02 What issue does it appear that Paul is so angry about? Why do you think he is this upset?

03 Why might it be important for Paul not to be trying to impress anyone?

Process Together - 20 min

Four false Gospels were outlined in the teaching.

- The Gospel of Self — My desires and comfort will give me peace.
- The Gospel of Tribalism — The right group and an “us versus them” mentality will make me secure.
- The Gospel of Transaction — Saying a prayer secures my future, with little expectation that following Jesus will shape my life now.
- The Gospel of Performance — Being good enough and doing enough will earn my acceptance.

Take some time to discuss these questions together.

01 Is there one of these false gospels that you tend towards slipping into? (No Shame if there is. Apart of Apprenticeship to Jesus is the slow process of learning to trust him alone instead of the trust structures we have built.)

02 What obstacles or pitfalls could you see in beginning to repent and turn from these false gospels?

03 What truths from Scripture would be good to know/memorize in order to combat the false ideas proposed by these gospels? What might Jesus say to each?

Practice - 10 min

Sabbath

When we find ourselves in bondage to any one of those four gospels, one of the best counter-formation practices to do is Sabbath. In Sabbath, we stop all activity for a set amount of time (traditionally 24 hours) in order to rest, delight, and worship. It is a practice that teaches us not to rely on achievement, influence, or consumerism for peace. It trains us to trust God alone to be in charge of our world, while we rest in him.

So this week, take time to a time to give sabbath a try. Most choose Sunday, a day when the church gathers for worship. Traditionally, sabbath is celebrated from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. But you decide where you have space. If married with kids, do it as a family. If single, find one or two people to do it with. Or if you sense God's invitation, spend time in solitude and quiet with him.

Remember to start where you are, not where you are not. If you have not sabbathed before, if this is a new rhythm to you, pick a 3-4 hour window. Then, during that time, put your phone away and do something that brings you delight. It could be a nap, reading a book, or hanging out with friends. But the main idea is to stop our work, our hurry, and all the noise of life in our current age in order to begin the work of trusting in God and delighting in the good he has for us.