

Where We're Going

THE GOSPEL · PART 2

Galatians (Introduction) | Arvin Assembly of God | Pastor Brian Overturf | August 16, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we started the book of Galatians. We saw how a church Paul planted with his own hands... by the **gospel of grace**... were almost talked right back into slavery. They were trading grace away for a different gospel. We saw the gospel planted, the gospel threatened, and the gospel defended.

This morning we continue with the introduction.... But before we get down on the ground and start walking through it verse by verse which we'll start next week....I want to take you up high. We're going to survey the book from 30,000ft which is only 6 chapters and it divides up nicely into three parts...

Where is Galatians trying to take us?

4. The Gospel Revealed

| ...that He might deliver us from this present evil age... (Gal. 1:4)

Paul can't even say hello without packing the whole gospel into it. Deliver us. Rescue us. Set us free. It's the very first thing out of his mouth. Jesus delivering us is where we're going... This theme of the gospel revealed will be covered in chapters 1 and 2.

Galatians 1:4

⁴who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

| ...it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Gal. 1:12)

Paul doesn't open this letter talking about you. He opens it talking about himself. Almost the entire first two chapters are Paul's own testimony. Here's why. Somebody had walked into these churches and told them Paul's gospel was second hand. So before Paul can defend the message, he has to answer one question: where did this gospel actually come from?

Paul is the last man on earth who would ever sit down and dream up a gospel of grace. He hated it. He hunted down the people who preached it. A man like that doesn't invent grace... grace had to come find him. And it did. And when he finally did lay his gospel in front of the pillars of the church (Peter, James, John), they added nothing to it. They didn't correct a word of it. One gospel. From God.

Galatians 1:11-12

¹¹But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹²For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This is a gospel revealed. A gospel handed down from God, centered on a Savior who loved you and gave Himself for you. What God's word revealed, no false teacher can conceal. It's settled. It's secure.

MY NOTES

5. The Gospel Explained

| ...a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ... (Gal. 2:16)

We've seen where the gospel came from. Straight from God. Now chapters 3 and 4, tells us what it actually says. Everything about the gospel explained stands on one word: justified.

Justified. It's a courtroom word. It means to be declared right, not guilty, before God, the Judge of all the earth. And Paul says you don't get that verdict by the works of the law. You don't earn it by being good enough, by keeping the rules, by cleaning yourself up. You get it one way and one way only.... By faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:16

¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

| ...you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir... (Gal. 4:7)

And in chapters 3 and 4, Paul makes that case four different ways. He is determined that they not miss it. He points to their own experience... the Spirit fell on them the day they believed. Not the day they finally measured up. He points to Abraham... God counted him righteous the moment he trusted the promise. No law, no circumcision, no résumé, just faith. He points to the cross... so Christ became that curse himself. And he points to the calendar... the promise to Abraham came hundreds of years before the law ever showed up. Grace was always the plan. The law was never meant to be the destination.

Do you see what happens when you're justified by faith? You don't just get forgiven. You get adopted. You become a son. A daughter. A full heir of everything God ever promised. An heir doesn't earn the inheritance. He was born into it. He was named in the will. It's already his. Not because he achieved it, but because he belongs.

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

6. The Gospel Lived

| Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free... (Gal. 5:1)

And now, chapters 5 and 6, the plane finally comes down. This is the destination. This is the place the whole letter has been driving toward from the very first verse. **Freedom.** A gospel from God, that justifies you by faith, so that you can finally live free.

Galatians 5:1

¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

| ...through love serve one another. (Gal. 5:13)

But watch. Paul is careful about what he means, because freedom gets misunderstood two different ways. Some people hear the word “free” and think it means back to the rules. So Paul says: Don’t go back. Don’t let anybody try to scam you back into paying the mortgage... the earning, the guilt, the endless proving. But other people hear “free” and think it means anything goes. And Paul shuts that down just as fast.

Called to liberty. Yes. A thousand times yes. But not as an excuse for the flesh. You weren’t set free to live for yourself. You were set free to finally love. To bend down and serve one another. And how do you live like that? Not by gritting your teeth and trying harder. By the Spirit.

Galatians 5:13

¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

A life where the Spirit of God grows love and joy and peace and patience right up out of the soil of your heart. Fruit you could never manufacture on your own by trying harder. This is the harvest of a free life.

CONCLUSION

Let me show you what this freedom is with a picture you know. Imagine two men working the same field out here in Arvin. Same rows. Same crop. Same sun. Same hours. But one of them is a slave. He works terrified, looking over his shoulder all day long, because if he slows down he loses his job. And the other one is the owner’s son, working the very same field, but it’s his father’s land, and one day the whole thing will be his. Same work. Completely different heart. One is bound by fear. The other one is free, and works out of love.

That’s what Christ set you free for. Not to walk off the field, but to stop working like a slave who’s terrified of losing everything... and start working like a son who already owns the promise. Free from the guilt. Free from the earning. Free to love. Free to walk in the Spirit.

And maybe you walked in here this morning still working the field like a slave. Still afraid. Still trying to earn what God already handed you for free. If that’s you... then our time in Galatians is for you. Because the God who gave His own Son to deliver you did not set you free so you could keep living in chains.

Christ has made you free. Let’s not go back.

