

## Don't Cheat on Grace Alone

### Galatians 1:6-9

#### 1. Be concerned about turning away from God, grace, and the good news (Gal. 1:6)

##### a. The God who called you

*We know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction (1 Thes. 2:4-5).*

##### b. The grace in which you stand

Galatians 5:1; Romans 5:2; 1 Peter 5:12

*NIV: who called you to live in the grace of Christ*

##### c. The only good news

Isaiah 52:7

“Sinful human beings stand justified before God, not on the basis of any righteousness of their own doing, but only on the basis of Christ crucified, risen, and righteous.” (Piper in *Christ Has Set Us Free* [Carson and Robinson Sr.] 37)

“The “good news” that Paul has proclaimed in Galatia and over which there has arisen so much controversy is the message that God has in Christ made a way for sinners to be accepted before him and that this way, being an act of God’s grace, is to be entered into and lived out by faith alone.” (Moo, *Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: Galatians* 78)

The true good news is “the message that God in Christ has done everything necessary for salvation so that we receive it as a free gift.... The gospel of free grace emphasizes the truth that the sinner cannot atone for his sin, but it also emphasizes that Christ’s sacrifice of himself puts away all sin. All that remains now is for the sinner to accept by faith the gospel offer of forgiveness. Any other so-called gospel requires the sinner to work for his own salvation in one way or another, and this means the rejection of grace.... By adding something of the law to the gospel they were destroying the very idea of grace.” (Morris, *Galatians: Paul’s Charter of Christian Freedom* 40, 44-45)

The true good news is “the gospel of divine redemption totally apart from any work or merit of man.... The least bit of law that is added to the gospel of Christ reverses its character and turns it into that which is contrary to God’s gracious provision of salvation and sanctification based entirely on the merits of His sinless, sin-bearing Son.” (MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Galatians* 13, 15)

There are two foundational truths that must be present in the true gospel: “(1) We are too sinful to contribute to our salvation (we need a complete rescue). (2) We are saved by belief in Jesus’ work – the ‘grace of Christ’ – plus nothing else.... Any change to the gospel, however small, makes it null and void.... The moment you revise the gospel you reverse it.” (Keller, *Galatians for You* 19, 18, 23)

## 2. Don’t forget that any alternative “good news” is damning (Gal. 1:7-9)

“This queen [the Bible] must rule, and everyone must obey, and be subject, to her. The pope, Luther, Augustine, Paul, an angel from heaven – these should not be the masters, judges, or arbiters but only witnesses, disciples, and confessors of Scripture. Nor should any doctrine be taught or heard in the church except the pure Word of God.” (Luther cited in Wilson, *Galatians: Gospel-Rooted Living* 31)

### Conclusion

2 Corinthians 11:3 *led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*