



Recognizing the Gospel Galatians 1:11-17

Galatians is a powerful book. Paul presents us with an amazing portrait of grace and helps us recognize our own story of God’s grace in our lives. This week gives us further insight into who Paul is, the nature of his message, and the overwhelming love and care that God pours on those whom He calls to himself. Let’s begin.

Getting Started

Ask one or two group members to share experiences with the Word Project. Provide an opportunity for anyone who would like to demonstrate how they are doing with memorizing Galatians so far.

Ted walked us through Psalm 23 Sunday morning. Read it again as a group and answer the following questions.

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| How do you think and feel about God as your shepherd? | How does this concept shape your interaction with God? |
| How have you seen God shepherd you? Thank him. | What areas of your life need God’s guidance right now? |

We’re going to begin this week’s study by reviewing what we’ve already studied.

The gospel of grace is the story of our rescue through the cross. verses 6-10

God’s grace alone is sufficient for that rescue.

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| What is the core of the gospel of grace? | What are we being saved from and what do we need to be wary of? |
| What modern day false gospels do we face? | How are we to evaluate any and all teachings? |
| How does people-pleasing affect this discussion? | What does the format of Paul’s letter tell us about his message? |

Now that we are prepared to see this week’s study in its proper context, review Ted’s outline and begin discussion.

How do we know?

The Gospel of grace is from God alone. verses 11-12

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| Why does Paul focus on the source of the gospel? | What is Paul contrasting the true gospel with and for what purpose? |
| What do these verses tell us about God’s calling? | Read Matthew 16:15-17 and discuss how it informs this passage. |

One encounter with grace gives powerful testimony through . . . verses 13-17

- the fact that nothing qualifies us to be a recipient of grace, vv. 13-14
- the transforming nature of grace, vv. 15-16a
 1. God sovereignly decides to rescue us.
 2. God graciously draws us.
 3. God designs a new heart in us.
- the nature of grace by interaction with God and His word, vv. 16b-17

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| How did Paul’s life prepare him for the gospel? | What was the source of Paul’s previous beliefs? |
| What man-made traditions do we face today? | How do we reconcile God’s calling and our choosing? |
| What do our stories of grace reveal about God? | How can the lens of grace direct how we view our lives? |
| What does it look like to make grace the paradigm through which we view the world? Give examples. | |

Application

Make it a group goal to have each group member come up with a specific application from the text.

How can you celebrate the sovereign grace of God in your life?

What, from your past, do you allow to cloud the nurturing of grace in your life?

Share your personal application and responses to one or both of the questions above with the group.

Prayer

Group members should have an application-specific item as their first prayer request. Pray for each group member’s OneReach person and the group’s Common Cause. Pray for the restoration of relationships. Pray for the continued commitment, dedication, and faithfulness of everyone who serves at TCBC.