



A DIFFERENT GOSPEL?!

Week 1

How Did it Go?

10 Minutes

As the fall begins, we begin a sermon series based on Paul's letter to the Galatians that will last until the end of November. In *Traveling Light: Modern Meditations on St. Paul's Letter of Freedom*, Eugene Peterson writes about the powerful implications of Galatians for the church: "Through the Christian centuries this letter has often been used by God to restore vigor and passion to the life of faith and to confront the world with the realities of a free life in Christ, a life that is free for all: given freely to all of us, making all who receive it free; enabling us to live freely in relation to God and to others" (p13).

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **GALATIANS 1:1-10**.

Head

15-20 Minutes

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS

1. In what ways does Paul identify himself to begin his letter? Why do you think he used those specific identifiers?
2. For what purpose did Jesus give Himself for our sins?

3. Why is it so important to Paul that the Galatians believe no gospel that is different from, or additional to, the gospel that he preached to them?

Heart

15–20 Minutes

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. What does the fact that Jesus died to rescue us from this present evil age suggest about how we are to live our day-to-day lives?
2. What “other gospels” are you prone to look to or follow after?
3. In what ways are you susceptible to seeking the favor of humans rather than the favor of God?

Hands

10 Minutes

**APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION
LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS**

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Take the time to sit down and write down your understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ask God to show you more of its dimensions and power.
- If you are prone to follow some other gospel, write down its description and acknowledge its effect on you. Ask God to show you how the gospel of Jesus Christ is truly better.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- If you know someone who does not know the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, pray that God will grant you an opportunity to show that gospel to them.
- If you know someone who is burdened by the present evil age, seek a way to bring the light and love of God’s kingdom into their lives.

Reaching Beyond

- Project Flourish, an FPC ministry, funds gospel-minded start-ups for the good of the city. People are needed to screen, coach, advise, and more. Register to volunteer at projectflourish@fpchouston.org or for more information contact Lyndsey Knight, Director of Innovation & Engagement at lknight@fpchouston.org.
- Join a Prayer Walk around Cullen Middle School on Wednesday, September 20. Contact Mary-Floye Federer, Direction of Missions at mffederer@fpchouston.org for information.
- What other ways can you bring the gospel to life for your neighbors and neighborhood?

Alpha Prayer Points

1. Fall 2023 Alpha starts October 26th at 8 am. Pray that Presbyterian School parents come, and that there is momentum for others to join this upcoming session Alpha.
2. Pray for God to be working in the hearts of those who came to Spring 2023 Alpha and who are continuing to meet in twice-monthly post-Alpha groups.
3. Praise God that two visitors from the August Taco group came to FPC one Sunday, and one of them returned for a second. Pray that others from previous Alpha groups visit FPC on Sunday.