No Other Gospel: Introduction Jonathan Cleveland Galatians 1:1-9 September 1, 2024

## **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### The letter to the Galatians is about freedom

Despite their new freedom in Christ, they were walking the same old path of religion that confined them before Jesus freed them.

- \*How does Paul understand both the old path of religion and freedom?
- \*How do you relate to Mohini the tiger? When have you struggled to embrace freedom or let go of an old way of thinking?

### Paul is worried about what he hears about believers in Galatia

Read and discuss Galatians 1:1-9 (NIV)

I Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— <sup>2</sup> and all the brothers and sisters with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

- <sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- \*How does this passage distill the entirety of the Gospel?
- \*What produces our rescue? Is the law a part of the rescue?

### The Galatians were trusting obedience instead of grace

Read and discuss Galatians 1:6-9 (NIV)

- <sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! <sup>9</sup> As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!
- \*What does Paul want to show about the true gospel?
- \*What is tricky about not relying on your efforts to trust the grace of Jesus daily? What is the difference between earning and effort?

# There are two directions we can take in our spiritual life: one is PLEASING God, the other is TRUSTING God

One path leads to good intentions; striving hard to be all God wants me to be. The other leads to grace and believing I have nothing left to earn from God because Jesus has done it all.

- \*How can religious behavior become a cage?
- \*What path do you most often find yourself on?
- \*How do you get back on the trust path when you veer off?
- \*What is the Spirit telling you about how you try to earn of please? What is the Spirit telling you about the ways you trust in God's grace?