

# “Gospel Centrality”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a **flexible guide** that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

## Message Summary

Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul to a group of churches in the southern region of Galatia; modern day Turkey. Shortly after he planted the churches in that region, false teachers came in and taught that a person must not only believe in Jesus but also convert to Judaism in order to have eternal life. In other words, their righteousness would be based on their works rather than the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. Paul wrote in order to correct this false teaching and help the churches live in the freedom they found in Jesus.

After Paul’s standard greeting, rather than including a prayer of thanksgiving, Paul opened with his indictment to the churches. Paul was astonished that the churches were turning so quickly from the Gospel he had preached to them! No doubt, his astonishment harkened back to the Golden Calf incident in the wilderness (Exodus 32:8). The churches had begun to embrace something other than the Gospel he had preached and they were turning away from the God of grace to go after other gods; works righteousness.

The church has struggled with being prone to wander since her inception and it’s still true today. While in many cases it’s not a malicious trend, this wandering away from Gospel Centrality happens when we try to be accepted by everyone by not offending people with doctrinal distinctives. This passage warns us of the gravity of missing the Gospel message.

The church’s existence depends on clearly understanding the Gospel. Further, everything we do must find her beginning in the Gospel. This is Gospel Centrality. And if we are going to have Gospel Centrality in the church we must understand the Gospel and it’s implications. Therefore, as you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week, examine your own life. Think about the way you live day in and day out. Does it depend on your understanding of the Gospel? Does everything we do as a church flow from the Gospel? How will you implement Gospel Centrality in your life this week?

## Message Outline

Gospel Centrality within a church means:

1. We are accountable to one another to:
  - Cling to Christ’s righteousness.
  - Flee works righteousness.
2. We preach an exclusive Gospel.
  - When the Gospel is perverted the church is troubled.
  - We don’t preach:
    - Pluralism.
    - Inclusivism.
  - We preach:
    - Exclusivism.
3. We boldly deny other gospels and their purveyors.
  - The Gospel cannot change.
  - Those who preach a non-gospel stand under the curse of God.
4. We are slaves of Jesus and please Him alone.
  - To fear people is...
    - To be their slave.
    - Deadly.
  - To fear God is...
    - To be Jesus’ slave.
    - Life.

Therefore, we will...

1. Show Gospel grace to one another in all aspects of life.
2. Proclaim Jesus as the only hope for eternal life.
3. Warn followers of false gospels of the judgment to come.
4. Serve Jesus diligently.

## “Gospel Centrality”

### Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Galatians 1:6-10:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

### Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**
  - Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
  - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
  - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
  - Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
  - Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
  - Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- **Local:**
  - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
  - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
  - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
  - Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
  - Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
  - Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
  - Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
  - Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.