



Reverse the Curse Week 1 | Gospel

| KEY THOUGHTS

- After we come to Christ, our new lifestyle can only be maintained when we cling to Him—and at the same time, He clings to us.
- We must cling to the gospel *and* to other growing disciples.
 - It's a family thing, not something we can do in isolation.
 - Those who try to go it alone are the ones who struggle the most to remain in Christ.
 - When we're not walking alongside others in the journey, we tend to swing between extremes of spiritual highs and lows.
- **There is no substitute for the true gospel.**
 - If you revise the gospel, you reverse it; the true gospel sets us free, but every substitute puts us back into bondage.
- **The true gospel is from God, and no one else.**
 - Jesus showed Paul the gospel, and he believed; belief is always the starting point of true faith.
- **The only work we have to do ourselves is to believe; God has already done the rest.**
 - The difference between Christianity and all other religion:
 - In religion, you give God something in hopes He'll accept you for what you did;
 - In Christianity, God accepts you based on what Christ has done, and then you follow Him.
 - No one but God could come up with something like that!
- **The true gospel brings unity among growing disciples.**
 - We're all aligned under the leadership of the same Holy Spirit, partnering in the same gospel rescue;
 - Division occurs when we turn from the true gospel to follow: personal opinion or preference; working to earn God's favor; insistence on my way of doing things.
- We all need a spiritual family to help us cling to the gospel; without clinging to one another, we'll let go of the true gospel and fall away into religion.

| SCRIPTURE

¹ Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:1-9 (ESV)

Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.

Galatians 1:4 (NLT)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- Choosing to be in community with other growing disciples might require that you...
 - Intentionally fight for relationship;
 - Battle through the awkward;
 - Show grace to others and encourage them in the gospel.
- If we're to help others in this, we must first know the gospel ourselves.
- We can do that by becoming familiar with passages that make the true gospel clear. Write them out; memorize them; meditate on them; live in them:
 - Galatians 1:4
 - Mark 10:45
 - Romans 5:8
 - 1 Peter 3:18
- Some ways to choose community:
 - Ask a prayer partner to pray with you at the end of a service;
 - Join a small group;
 - Ask someone to meet with you one-on-one for discipleship;
 - Sign up for the next Membership Class.

| REFLECT

- Pastor Fritz shared his past experience of swinging between a high moment of closeness with the Lord, then a deep low of guilt and doubt, then back again, like a pendulum. Can you relate to that in your own life?
 - If so, could the reason be that you're disconnected from the community of other growing disciples?
- We are in the faith because of what Christ has done; it has nothing to do with anything we do. Does that seem scandalous to you? Do you feel like we should have to contribute something in order for it to be real?
- If you have any association with Lighthouse Community whatsoever—whether you attend in person or online—whether you're actively involved or a casual attender—you have a spiritual family here who wants to help you cling to the true gospel. And we need you to help us as well.

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