

## Trinity Lutheran Church

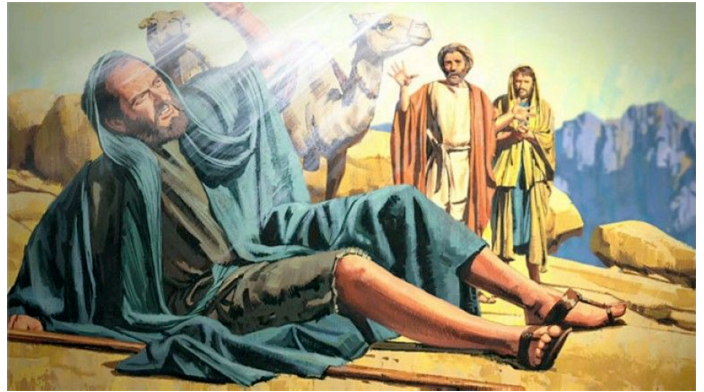
Norman, Oklahoma – [www.tlcnorman.org](http://www.tlcnorman.org)

### The Book of Galatians

**Theme: “The True Gospel You Have Received”**

Date: 4-3-22

Lesson: 6 - Chapter 1:10-24



### TEXT AND STUDY

(10) For am I now seeking the approval of man, or **of God**? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant **of Christ**. (11) For I would have you know, brothers, that **the gospel** that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

(12) For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through **a revelation of Jesus Christ**.

**(Acts 22:14; Rom 1:1; 2:16,29; 6:18,22; 16:25; 1 Cor 2:10; 4:2-5; 10:33; 11:23; 15:1-3; 2 Cor 12:1; Eph 3:2-6; 6:6; Col 3:22; 1 Thess 2:4)**

(13) For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted **the church of God** violently and tried to destroy it. (14) And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

**(Mt 15:2; Mk 7:5; Ac 8:3; 21:20; 26:4,5; 1 Cor 10:32; Php 3:6)**

(15) But when **he who had set me apart** before I was born, and who called me by **his grace**, (16) was pleased to reveal **his Son to me**, in order that I might preach **him** among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; (17) nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

**(Is 49:1-5; Jer 1:5; Mt 16:17; Ac 9:1-27; Rom 1:1; 8:28; 1 Cor 15:9,50; Eph 6:12)**

(18) Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. (19) But I saw none of the other apostles except James **the Lord's** brother. (20) (In what I am writing to you, before **God**, I do not lie!) (21) Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. (22) And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are **in Christ**. (23) They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." (24) And they **glorified God** because of me.

**(Mt 9:8; 13:55; 16:18; Mk 6:3; Lk 2:2; 8:19; Jn 1:42; Ac 6:7-9; 8:3; 11:30; 12:17; 15:13; 21:18,19; Rom 1:9; 9:1; 16:3; 1 Cor 1:9; 1 Th 2:14)**

### **Luther's Commentary - Vol. 26**

“This is the central proposition of this chapter, down to the end of the second chapter; it is a refutation and a defense. Here Paul is reciting a sort of perpetual history...Thus Paul is not reciting the entire history here...I pay attention only to Paul's purpose and intention.

The central proposition of this passage is this: “**My Gospel** is not according to man. Nor did I receive it from man; I received it by a **revelation of Jesus Christ**.” This proposition he sets forth; he

will stick by it, and he confirms it with an oath. He bears solemn witness to the Galatians, to make them believe that he did not learn **his Gospel** from any man but received it by a **revelation of Jesus Christ**. And they should not pay attention to the false apostles, whom he accuses of being liars, because they said that Paul had accepted and learned **his Gospel** from the apostles.

When Paul says that **his Gospel** is “not man’s,” he does not mean that his Gospel is not human; for that is self-evident, and the false apostles, too, bragged that their doctrine was not human but divine. But he means that he had not learned **his Gospel** by the ministry of men or received it by any human means, as all of us either learn it by the ministry of men or receive it by some human means—hearing or reading or writing or drawing, etc. But he had simply received it by a **revelation of Jesus Christ**...

When Paul denies that he received **his Gospel** from man, he clearly indicates by **this that Christ** is not a **mere man** but is **true God and man at the same time**.

Paul received his Gospel when he was on the way to Damascus, where **Christ** appeared to him and spoke with him. Later **He spoke** with him again in the temple at Jerusalem (Acts 22:17–21). But Paul received his **Gospel** on the road, as Luke tells the story in Acts 9. “Rise,” **Christ** says to him, “and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do” (Acts 9:6). **Christ** does not tell him to enter the city in order to learn the Gospel from Ananias. Ananias was commanded to go and baptize him, to lay his hands on him, to commit **the ministry of the Word** to him, and to commend him to the church—but not to teach him **the Gospel**, which he had already received, as he boasts here, by a **revelation of Jesus Christ on the road**.

Ananias himself acknowledges this when he says (Acts 9:17): “Brother Saul, **the Lord who appeared to you** on the road has sent me that you may regain your sight.” Therefore he did not receive his doctrine from Ananias. But having already been called, enlightened, and **taught by Christ** on the road, he was sent to Ananias, so that he might have the testimony of men also to his having been called by **God** to preach the **Gospel of Christ**.

Paul was forced to recite this to refute the slander of the false apostles, who endeavored to bring the disfavor of the Galatians upon him. They said that Paul was far inferior to the remaining pupils of the apostles, who had received from the apostles what they taught and kept; that they had observed the behavior of the apostles for a long time; and that Paul himself had received the same instruction from them but was now denying it. Why were they listening to an inferior and despising the authority of the apostles, who were the ancestors and teachers not only of the Galatians but of all the churches throughout the world?

...Therefore let every faithful person work and strive with all his might to learn this doctrine and keep it, and for this purpose let him employ humble prayer to **God** with continual study and meditation on **the Word**. Even when we have done ever so much, there will still be much to keep us busy. For we are involved, not with minor enemies but with strong and powerful ones, who battle against us continually, namely, our own flesh, all the dangers of the world, the Law, sin, death, the wrath and judgment of God, and the devil himself, who never stops tempting us inwardly with his flaming darts (Eph. 6:16) and outwardly with his false apostles, so as to overcome some if not all of us.”

#### LIFE APPLICATION

What is the difference between seeking the approval of man, or **of God**?  
If we are trying to please man, would we be servants **of Christ**?