



“No Additives”

2 Timothy 2, 1 Corinthians 15, Galatians 1
Small Group Plan

Dr. Richard Halverson has written:

Christianity started in Palestine as a relationship and became an idea in Greece, an organization in Rome and an enterprise in America.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Did you grow up attending “Gospel Meetings?” What were the typical topics?
- How does it impact you to know that “gospel” literally means “good news?”

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— WHO THE GOSPEL IS —

2 Timothy 2:8

Remember Jesus Christ ... This is my gospel ...

- What is involved in remembering Jesus?
- When Paul preached the gospel (Jesus), what did he actually talk about?
- Living by the gospel is living like Jesus. How are the goals and lifestyle of our culture most obviously different from those of Jesus?

— WHAT THE GOSPEL IS —

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

¹ Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- DBR = Death, Burial, Resurrection.
- Why should it be LDBR = Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection? How does the life of Jesus bring meaning to his death, burial and resurrection?
- How does the gospel save (v. 2)?

— WHAT THE GOSPEL DOES —

1 Corinthians 15:10, 14, 17, 20-21

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me ... ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith ... ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins ... ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

- Identify the statements that show that God and his grace are the foundation and underpinning of our salvation. (ex. “by the grace of God”).
- Why is it true that without the work of Jesus, our work and our faith are “useless” (v. 16) and “futile” (v. 17)?

— HOW THE GOSPEL IS CHANGED —

Galatians 1:1-12

¹ Paul, an apostle — sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead — ² and all the brothers with me, To the churches in Galatia: ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! ¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹ I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

- Why did Paul begin this letter so harshly (v. 6), unlike almost all the other letters he wrote?
- Find all the places where Paul highlights “men” “man” “people” “anybody.” Why is Paul being so clear about the origin of his gospel?
- Why is it important for Paul to establish his credentials?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Why is it important for us to remember that the “gospel” is a person and a relationship (Jesus)?
- Why do additions to the gospel really subtract and hurt the gospel?
- Does the world think of today’s Christianity as “good news?” Explain.
- Read and reflect together on this quote:

There is a difference between devotion to principles and devotion to a person. Hundreds of people today are devoting themselves to phases of truth, to causes. Jesus Christ never asks us to devote ourselves to a cause or a creed; He asks us to devote ourselves to Him.

— From *Facing Reality* by Oswald Chambers

- Close in prayer, confessing to God that he is the sole source of hope, strength and salvation. Spend time in thankful prayer.