**Guard the Gospel**

*Paul, the Reformation, and the Continued Call to Doctrinal Vigilance*

(Galatians 1:6-10)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **STUDY:** What is unique about Paul’s tone in Galatians in contrast with his other letters (compare to Romans 1:1-17, Philippians 1:1-11, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)? Why is this the case (i.e. why is Paul “astonished”)? In what way(s) were they “deserting” the gospel (see Galatians 3:1-14; 5:7-12)? According to Paul, what would be the consequence of deserting the true gospel?
2. **STUDY:** What does Paul say that the false teachers desire to do to the gospel of Christ? What effect was this having on the Galatian Christians? What does this tell us about the impact that false teaching can have on the life of a church (see also 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 2 Peter 2:1-22)?
3. **STUDY:** In your own words, explain what Paul is saying in Galatians 1:8-9. How should this practically impact our lives as Christians? What does “accursed” mean? Why is this word so devastating? What misconception of his teaching was Paul addressing in verse 10 (see also Romans 6:1)? What could Paul have done (or changed in his ministry) to become more of a man-pleaser? Why was his gospel preaching so offensive to the Judaizers (see Romans ch.2)?
4. **APPLY:** What are some modern versions of the gospel that would qualify as “another gospel”? Why? In your own words, explain why it is striking to see that adding to, taking away from, or misrepresenting the gospel of Jesus Christ incurs divine judgment. How should this understanding affect our lives? Our preaching and teaching? In what way(s) are you tempted to distort the gospel? Do you drift toward a works-righteousness? Why? Do you drift toward lawlessness? Why? What disciplines can you develop in your life that will safeguard against gospel distortion?