

WEEK 1: Don't Complicate It!

Read: Galatians 1:1-12

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE PASSAGE:

POWER UP
with truth

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

GALATIANS 1:6-7

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MAKES EVERYTHING MORE COMPLICATED THAN IT NEEDS TO BE?

Sometimes you just want to shake them and say, "Life doesn't have to be this difficult!" Or perhaps you often find *yourself* overthinking and overanalyzing something until you're left with a convoluted mess.

The churches in Galatia were experiencing something similar. So in this book, Paul, a Christian missionary in the early church, is writing to the Galatians to shake them up a little.

Previously, he had visited them when they were still pagans (also referred to as "Gentiles") and taught them about Jesus Christ. He had told them that Jesus was focusing on their hearts, not their behavior. That salvation comes from faith, not their own righteousness.

But since then, some other teachers had altered the message he had given them, teaching instead: *Believing isn't enough (faith)—you have to observe the Jewish laws, too (works)*. For them, that even

included getting circumcised (ouch)! It seems crazy to us now that they'd complicate Paul's message and trade it away for something so much more cumbersome.

But even today, we're tempted to add to the message—to "turn to a different gospel" as Paul put it. We don't need to complicate it; the gospel means "good news" for a reason! We can find rest in its simplicity.

THE BIG IDEA

A rewired heart starts with faith in Christ alone.

CONNECT to the reading

Rate your own spiritual walk by placing an X on the scale below.

Lousy _____ Awesome

What are you doing or not doing that makes you feel this way about your walk with God?

Make a short list of the "spiritual activities" you are involved in using the categories below:

BECAUSE I HAVE TO

BECAUSE I WANT TO



GET WIRED for the week

Lord, open my heart to what You can teach me through Galatians. Rewire my heart by renewing my passion for You. My prayer for this week is:

NEXT STEP. This week I will:

PRAYERS FOR MY BROTHERS:

PLUG IN with the guys



- 1 Who does Paul say sent him? How does this differ from the teachers that the Galatians have been listening to?
- 2 What is Paul's mood in this portion of the letter? Why do you think he's feeling this way?
- 3 Why does Paul use the word "gospel" so many times in verses 6-9? Describe the gospel in your own words.
- 4 How do we "pervert" the gospel? What do we add to it? Why?
- 5 Review what you wrote about your current walk with God. What do you think Paul would say if he read it?
- 6 Why do you think Paul says he can't be a servant of Christ if he's trying to please men? Do you struggle with "people pleasing" at work, home, church, etc.?