

SCRIPTURE READING

INTRO: Our scripture reading this morning come from the apostle Paul's letter to the Christians of a region called Galatia. Unlike some of his other letters, Paul is really upset and even angry in this letter. Listen:

Galatians 1. 1-9

Paul an apostle—sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and Abba God, who raised him from the dead—²and all the members of God's family who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

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

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! ⁹As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed! Amen.

INTRO: As he continues to write this letter, Paul also shares what he believes is the core of the gospel these Christians may be forgetting about. Listen:

Galatians 2. 19-20, 3. 26-29

¹⁹I have been crucified with Christ; ²⁰and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

²⁶For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no

longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's and Sarah's offspring, heirs according to the promise. Amen.

We are listening, O God; **Speak to us!**