

**The Right Road Matters**  
*Galatians 1:1-9*

**Introduction:** Today we are starting a study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. This is a letter that has had a significant influence in determining what road the Christian faith would take. It helped keep Christianity on the right road in the first century; it played a powerful role in the Protestant Reformation in returning Christianity to the right road of salvation by grace; and, in our day the message is no less important in keeping us on the right spiritual road.

**Opening Discussion:** What's one of the most interesting roads you've ever traveled?

**Read Galatians 1:1-9**

1. What sticks out to you from this passage?
2. How would you describe the tone?
3. What, if anything, is unique about Paul's introduction in Galatians as compared to his introductions in his other letters?
4. How does Paul understand his calling? Why is this important?
5. What does Paul teach about Christ?
6. What is Paul's concern for the Galatians?
7. In what ways is Paul's concern for the Galatians relevant in our day?

Brian said:

I would assume that for most of us, we don't question that Paul was an apostle. We don't doubt that he was sent by Christ. And so we don't wrestle with questions of Paul's authority in the same way the Galatians did. But I wonder if maybe we might need to be reminded that this letter from Paul, as well as all of his letters, as well as all of the Scriptures are authoritative in our lives. People like Paul, who were sent from God, have spoken and written with Christ's authority. What we have here (i.e. in the Bible) are not just good ideas and suggestions from inspirational people, but rather this is God's Word to us and it speaks with absolute authority into our lives. Is that how you view the Scriptures?

8. Is this how you view Scripture?

9. Is there any way in which you are not allowing Scripture to speak with authority in your life?

Brian said:

In our day there are messages and there are teachers out there that want to add to this gospel of grace as well. I would even say that there is something in us that really doesn't like that it is all by grace. We want to have a part. We want to earn it. "Yes, you need Christ, but you also need to do \_\_\_\_\_." But if we add anything to this gospel of grace, it is not the gospel at all. It is a different road.

10. What are some subtle things that believers are tempted to add to what Christ did for them on the cross?

11. How can we ensure that we keep walking on the right road of a gospel of grace?