

# REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH, LEKKI PHASE 1, LAGOS

DIGGING DEEP – 12/12/2023

TOPIC: **GOSPEL OF GRACE DEFENDED**

TEXT:

**Galatians 1:1-24, 2:1-21**

Paul stands on the truth that salvation comes by God's grace through faith alone in Christ's payment for our sins on the cross, encouraging believers to embrace the faith and live like Jesus Christ. **V. 1-2**, Paul's Apostolic claim is unquestionable hence, he wrote with authority (Apostolic Authority) and he expects that Christians would respect his authority as an Apostle of Jesus Christ and obey the word of God in his letters.

**DANGER OF ANOTHER GOSPEL:** Galatians 1:1-9, Paul's authority, greetings and warnings; the letter to the Galatian churches is a passionate warning from a soul that is committed to the Lord Jesus Christ in order to save Christians from turning from the faith into "**another gospel**", Gospel means good news. **Jude 1:1-4**

Paul an apostle, **V.1**, an appointed representative, **Acts 9:1-9,15-17**, not made by man but by Jesus Christ and God the father. **V.2** - He spoke with boldness addressing the issue with his usual familiar greetings "**grace and peace**", the bedrock of Christianity. **V.6-7**, and then pointing them to the danger facing the church "**another gospel**". Throughout the letter he pointed the Galatians believers to the centrality of the Cross which leads to eternal home, **John 3:16**, a loving giving saviour. Therefore, forgiveness of sins and perfect righteousness are not to be sought anywhere else but in Christ Jesus, just as deliverance from the power and not presence of the world, **John 17:15-17**

Paul's concern, **V.6**, of their quick turning away so soon to 1. False gospel 2. Trouble 3. Perversion was a real problem among the Galatians churches (**still is even today amongst churches – eg. gay marriages, ordination of gay pastors, fashion, etc**) which

informs his emphasizing the need to remain steadfast in the faith (**Christ**) and not yield to deceivers (who may not even be aware of the danger) **John 10:10a**.

The true gospel is offensive to the human nature (**Ego, Wisdom and Knowledge**) hence the perversion, **1 Cor.15:1-4. V.8-9-** Anyone who preaches or brings a false gospel must be rejected because he's worthy of God's curse. **V.10** -Paul's ultimate aim of writing the letter was to bring them back to **God and not men-**  
**1 Tim 3:16**

**DIVINE SOURCE OF THE GOSPEL: Galatians 1:11-24, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Acts 9:3-6**, Paul received the gospel in a dramatic, direct revelation on his way to Damascus which makes it very unique, unlike most believers who had the gospel preached to them which supports his claim of Apostolic authority. God called Paul through His special grace, unmerited favour despite his zealous persecution of the church, **V.13-16**, the gospel was revealed directly to him by God and not man. **Only what comes from God can save us and make a lasting difference in our lives**

**JUSTIFIED BY FAITH – Gal 2:1-2**, Paul's meeting with the Apostles in Jerusalem created an opportunity for him to share his conversion experience and his preaching to the gentiles about being dead to the law and coming alive to God by faith. **V.3-10**, Salvation is found only through faith in Christ and clarifying that there is no need for gentile believers to follow the law after trusting in Christ, (Circumcision- law of Moses) **V.11-14**, There is no reason for a Christian to believe that obeying the works of the law i.e. good deeds, traditions and rituals are part of our salvation. Finally, **V.15-21**, Paul declares that believing in Christ that our sinful self was crucified, **we live by faith in Christ**.

**CONCLUSION:** Why did Christ give himself for Paul and for us? Paul says his motive is simply **LOVE**, **Romans 5:6, John 15:13**