The Spirit Rhythm

week 02
Received by Revelation
Galatians 1:11–2:10

opening prayer (2 min)

Father, thank You that the gospel did not come from us but from You. Thank You that Jesus came for us before we ever came looking for Him. Make us humble and teachable tonight, free us from trying to earn what You have already given, and lead us deeper into the truth of Jesus. Amen.

highlights (13 min)

Big Idea: We didn't invent the gospel. Christ revealed it, and even the messenger answers to the message. It changes us by grace, and nothing can be added to Christ's finished work.

opening reflection

- Have you ever been absolutely convinced you were right about something, only to find out you were completely wrong?
- Who first shared the gospel with you, and what made you trust it?

Bridge Statement: Saul was brilliant, religious, and passionate. He knew the Scriptures and was absolutely convinced he was serving God, yet he was fighting against the very God he thought he served. Then everything changed, not because Saul found Jesus, but because Jesus came for Saul. Last week we saw that there is only one gospel. This week Paul shows us why we can trust it: it was revealed by Christ, it transforms by grace, and it is sufficient.

Key Line: Being sincere doesn't make you right.

scripture focus

Read Galatians 1:11–2:10 aloud.

Context: The teachers troubling the Galatian churches were saying, in effect, "Trusting Jesus is a good start, but to be fully accepted by God you also need the law of Moses." To make their case, they challenged Paul's authority: he wasn't one of the original twelve. Paul defends his authority for one reason: if they can discredit the messenger, they can rewrite the message. So he tells his story: a revelation of Jesus Christ, three years before he met Peter, and fourteen years later a visit to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus.

time to consider (30 min)

Reflect on what God has spoken through this week's sermon by discussing the key truths together. Take this moment seriously: slow down, listen, and respond to what the Spirit is saying.

1. We Didn't Invent It: The Gospel Is Revealed (Galatians 1:11–12)

The gospel is not a human invention, a philosophy, a brand, or a religious tradition. Paul received it "through a revelation of Jesus Christ." Jesus is both the One who reveals the gospel and the One the gospel reveals. Its authority doesn't come from credentials, experience, or opinion; it comes from Christ. Even the messenger answers to the message. And the same Holy Spirit who inspired the apostles' message lives in every believer and will never contradict the gospel revealed by Jesus.

discussion questions

- Why does it matter that the gospel's authority comes from Christ and not from a preacher's credentials, experience, or personality?
- How can you tell whether what you sense from the Spirit is leading you deeper into Jesus or away from Him?

Insight: The Spirit doesn't lead us away from Jesus, but deeper into the truth of Jesus.

2. We're Changed by It: The Gospel Transforms by Grace (Galatians 1:13–24)
Saul had knowledge, devotion, and zeal, and he was wrong. He didn't need more religion; he needed Jesus. Sometimes the greatest danger to our spiritual lives is the very thing we are most proud of spiritually. Then verse 15 changes everything: "But when God…" God set Paul apart, called him by grace, and revealed His Son to him. Paul wasn't working his way toward Christ; Christ came for Paul. Whether our story is dramatic or quiet, none of us could earn our way to God.

discussion questions

- Is it possible that the thing you point to as evidence of your spiritual maturity has become the place where you resist the work of God?
- What is your "But God…" story? Share how God interrupted your life with grace, whether dramatically or quietly.

Insight: God doesn't save us because we've already changed. He saves us by grace, and then His grace begins to change us.

3. The Gospel Is Sufficient and Sets Us Free (Galatians 2:1–10)
Titus was a Gentile believer who had never been circumcised, and some insisted he still needed something more: Jesus plus. Paul did not yield "even for a moment," because if Christ wasn't enough for Titus, Christ isn't enough for anybody. Adding requirements to the gospel doesn't make us more spiritual; it brings us back into slavery. Today we can do the same thing by turning the Christian life into a scorecard. The apostles "added nothing" to Paul's message; they gave him the right hand of fellowship and asked him to remember the poor. Grace doesn't make us indifferent to good works; it gives us a new reason for doing them.

discussion questions

- Have you begun to believe that God's disposition toward you rises and falls with your spiritual performance? Where does a "scorecard" show up in your life?
- What changes when you pray, read Scripture, and serve because you are already God's child, not to become one?

Insight: We don't practice spiritual rhythms to become God's children. We practice them because, in Christ, we already are.

renewal

Reflect: The churches of Judea heard that the persecutor had become the preacher, and "they glorified God because of me" (Galatians 1:24). Where are you still trying to make yourself acceptable to God? What would it look like to rest in Christ's finished work this week, so that your life points others to His grace?

Key Line: We don't serve to earn grace. We serve because we've received it.

missional living (30 min)

1. Write your "But God…" story in a few sentences and share it with one person this week.
2. When you feel you need to earn your way back to God, stop and thank Him that Christ is enough.
3. Remember the poor (Galatians 2:10): find one practical way to serve someone in need this week.

The Spirit Rhythm

week 02
Received by Revelation
Galatians 1:11–2:10

follow-up

Where did you catch yourself keeping a spiritual scorecard this week? How did remembering that Christ is enough change your response?

closing time of prayer (15 min)

Pray for humility to stay teachable, gratitude for the grace that came for us, freedom from performance-based faith, and hearts eager to serve the poor.

final takeaways

- The gospel is not a human invention; Christ revealed it.
- Even the messenger answers to the message.
- Sincerity and zeal can't save us; Jesus came for us by grace.
- Grace saves us first, and then it changes us.
- Nothing can be added to Christ's finished work; spiritual rhythms flow from belonging, not toward it.

Memory Verse: *Galatians 1:11–12 — "For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ."*