

Date: 23 October 2022

Speaker: Pastor Clement Chew

Topic: Studies in Galatians - Why Did Christ Die

Text: Galatians 1:1-5

1. The church of Galatia received the good news of salvation and many believed. But very quickly, this church became infiltrated by false teachers who appeared to be very pious and knowledgeable. What the Judaizers taught was that salvation comes by faith as well as circumcision. Many were deceived and followed their teaching. That's why Paul had to write this letter to defend the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Paul began this letter by affirming his authority as a true Apostle of Jesus Christ (v1). It was a divine appointment. Paul then highlighted the essential elements of the Gospel which he and his co-labourers held on to -- Christ died for sinners and He rose again from the dead.
3. As part of Paul's greeting, he gave reasons why Christ had to die on the cross. Firstly, Christ died because He loved us (v4a). He is the perfect gift to the sons of men, and He willingly went to the cross to save men from their sins. No one should cheapen the love of Christ by adding or subtracting to the Gospel. Secondly, Christ died in order to deliver us from this present world (v4b). We are every bit worthy of death but Christ is not one bit worthy of death. By the sinless sacrifice of Christ's blood, we will be delivered from this sin cursed, corrupted world. We will have eternal life in the new heaven and new earth. Lastly, Christ died according to God's will (v4c). As the only begotten Son of God, He submits to the will of God the Father. Ultimately, Christ's death is for the glory of God (v5). Saints will one day sing the song of redemption.
4. Never use the facade of religion as a cover for your hypocrisy. Do not just follow others or pretend that you are a Christian to soothe your conscience. Do not let the spirit of legalism enter the church. Every one of us must be accountable whether our works are truly for God or a veneer to cover up what we do not understand.

*Know the true Gospel which saves*