

Title: Muppet Gospel – Galatians 1 1-12

Read:

¹⁻⁵ I, Paul, and my companions in faith here, send greetings to the Galatian churches. My authority for writing to you does not come from any popular vote of the people, nor does it come through the appointment of some human higher-up. It comes directly from Jesus the Messiah and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. I'm God-commissioned. So I greet you with the great words, grace and peace! We know the meaning of those words because Jesus Christ rescued us from this evil world we're in by offering himself as a sacrifice for our sins. God's plan is that we all experience that rescue. Glory to God forever! Oh, yes! ⁶⁻⁹ I can't believe your fickleness—how easily you have turned traitor to him who called you by the grace of Christ by embracing a variant message! It is not a minor variation, you know; it is completely other, an alien message, a no-message, a lie about God. Those who are provoking this agitation among you are turning the Message of Christ on its head. Let me be blunt: If one of us—even if an angel from heaven!—were to preach something other than what we preached originally, let him be cursed. I said it once; I'll say it again: If anyone, regardless of reputation or credentials, preaches something other than what you received originally, let him be cursed. ¹⁰⁻¹² Do you think I speak this strongly in order to manipulate crowds? Or curry favour with God? Or get popular applause? If my goal was popularity, I wouldn't bother being Christ's slave. Know this—I am most emphatic here, friends—this great Message I delivered to you is not mere human optimism. I didn't receive it through the traditions, and I wasn't taught it in some school. I got it straight from God, received the Message directly from Jesus Christ.

Think:

Pauls at it again, shooting from the hip. There is no messing with Paul is there? When he wants to get a point across, he doesn't dress it up in flowery language, he says it as it is. If Paul was writing this letter to the Galatians today he would probably say something like. "Get a life, stop following messed up preachers, follow the true message that Jesus left us. Oi, muppets, checkout your Bible." Pauls has a good point though, because it is important that we don't mess with the message that Jesus lefts us. We can add all sorts of stuff to the Bible, and you often hear people misquoting the Bible. Things like, cleanliness is next to Godliness, God works in mysterious ways. Both may be wise sayings, they may even be true, but they are not in the Bible. So, if it's so easy for us to believe people when they say they are quoting the Bible, and Paul says that it is massively important that we don't follow the wrong teachings, how can we tell the difference? Well, the good news is, that you do not have to depend on what anyone says, because it's down to you to check out the truth. When you hear someone say something about Jesus check out what your Bible says. When your youth leaders pass on some Biblical wisdom, check out what the Bible says. Heck, when you hear an Aftershock dev, check out what your Bible says. Following the true teachings of Jesus is down to one person and one person only. That's you, oh and of course your Bible.

Pray:

Father thank you for leaving me the true teachers that you would have me follow. Thank you for my Bible. Amen.

Action:

Do you have a Bible? Go and grab it now and find out if what I have just said is true or not. No Bible? Then email us at Podcast@Aftershock.org.uk and let us know. If you really want a Bible then we know God would enable us to find one for you. Bye.