

DISCUSSION IDEAS
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!

Galatians 1:1-9

September 18th, 2016

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHY???**

Have you ever stopped to ponder the following?

Why did God create – create anything?

Why did God create humans?

Why did God allow sin to exist? Why not destroy Lucifer instantly?

Why did God plan to die?

Apart from His perfect holiness, what is the primary characteristic of God? (See Exodus 34:6-7)

How could God ever express His love?

How much damage did our rebellion against God's authority create?

Consider Romans 8:19-22.

So – we can not fix it. How did that define what kind of a Redeemer was required?

Look at Romans 8 again. Did only mankind need fixing?

When did God decide to suffer in order to redeem His creation?

Check 1 Peter 1:17-25.

How did this require God to become one of His own creatures – in the person of the man Jesus?

What did Jesus' death really accomplish?

Why is His resurrection so important?

What was God's purpose. Was it just to save me? Look at 1 John 3:4-10. Compare the last part of verse 8 with Galatians 1:4.

How does the concept of Grace fit into this discussion?

OK. Now. What is the essence of the Gospel?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT PART OF "IT'S ALREADY PAID FOR" DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?**

Look at Paul's words to the Galatians in Acts 13:38-43. What is the last phrase in that passage?

Compare that to Gal. 1:6. What is meant by "grace"?

How does that affect my response to the Gospel?

As a Jew, the Law was important. To us who were Gentiles, how important was (is) it to earn, to deserve, what we get? Or at least to get what we think we deserve?

How can I ever be good enough to be accepted by God?

(REALLY!? "Your credit is no good here!")

Regarding OUR debt – review Colossians 2:12-14.

Now add verse 15.

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: REVIEW OUR EVIL PRESENT AGE.**

How strongly do I want to just fit in?

How much pressure am I under , and my children also, to conform to an evil, godless view of life?

How does God's grace bring us real freedom?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION:**

Where did we get all the information that we studied this week?

What is our basis for believing anything about life?

How much do we tend to believe "authorities"?

Is questioning what someone teaches us a sign of rebellion?

Take a good look at Acts 15:1-2.

What really is the ultimate authority, one which we can check for ourselves?

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Continue to pray for the Pearsons as they continue to find various ways to serve Jesus.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganan Island.

Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoidstads. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganan Island.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.