SERMON CHEAT SHEET

STOP KEEPING SCORE | GALATIANS 1:1–24

Main Theme: Add to the gospel, and you've left the gospel.

Recognize the Desertion

We often treat slipping back into self-reliance as harmless drifting, yet Scripture calls it desertion. Whenever we add our personal checklists, achievements, or disciplines to what Jesus accomplished, we walk away from the God who called us into grace. False teaching dresses up human effort to look like genuine devotion, but supplementing the finished work of Christ pollutes the cure. You must cling solely to the cross because the moment you try to buy God's favor, you abandon the gift.

Bow to the Source

True spiritual freedom begins when you stop measuring your worth through the applause and opinions of people. Paul received the good news directly from the risen Christ, which grounded his entire mission in divine authority rather than popular consensus. We belong to one Master, and our loyalty remains entirely with Him. You must evaluate every cultural trend, book, and voice by the revealed Word of God and stand firm on that unchanging foundation.

Rest in the Rescue

Our best religious pedigree and hardest work earn us zero standing before a holy God. Paul had an elite spiritual resume, yet only sovereign grace rescued him from spiritual blindness and guilt. Jesus gave Himself to snatch you out of the exhausting pressure of this present age, completely paying the debt you owed. You can lay down your heavy scorecard today and rest peacefully in the rescue that Christ has already completed on your behalf.

LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Tear up your mental scorecard today by identifying one specific spiritual discipline you treat as a transaction with God.
- Test every idea, podcast, or teaching you consume this week by opening your Bible directly to confirm if it aligns with Scripture.
- Share a story of your own past failure with a trusted friend to highlight how God's grace transformed your life.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Confess specific areas of life where you rely on personal performance to earn divine approval.
- Pray for discernment to spot false additions to the gospel in popular culture and your own thought patterns.
- Ask God for freedom from people-pleasing and for a renewed heart to seek His approval alone.