

Jon Killoran

October, 2021

FBC ministry update

My friends at SCA International, I trust that you are all doing well and enjoying your fall. We pray for you often.

As I think about October at Fellowship Bible Church, my mind goes to Philippians 2:12-13. There, we have a reminder that God is the one who enables us to grow and to minister to others. In other words, we need to depend on God for change and growth.

It is so easy to try to rely on our own efforts in our ministries, our family life, and our own growth. However, any lasting and meaningful change must come from God working within us. He is the true cause for spiritual growth (both in his church and in us).

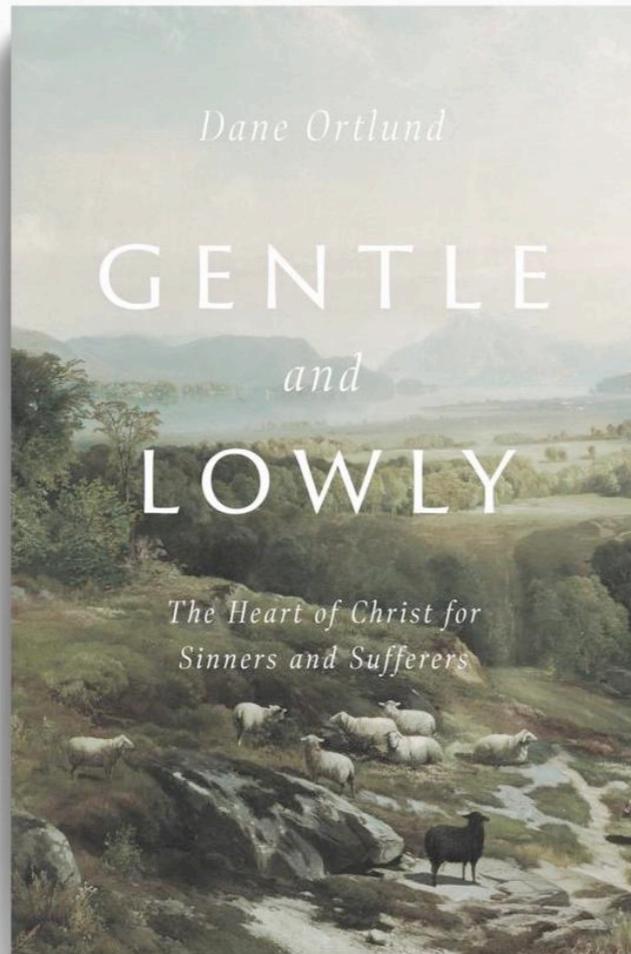


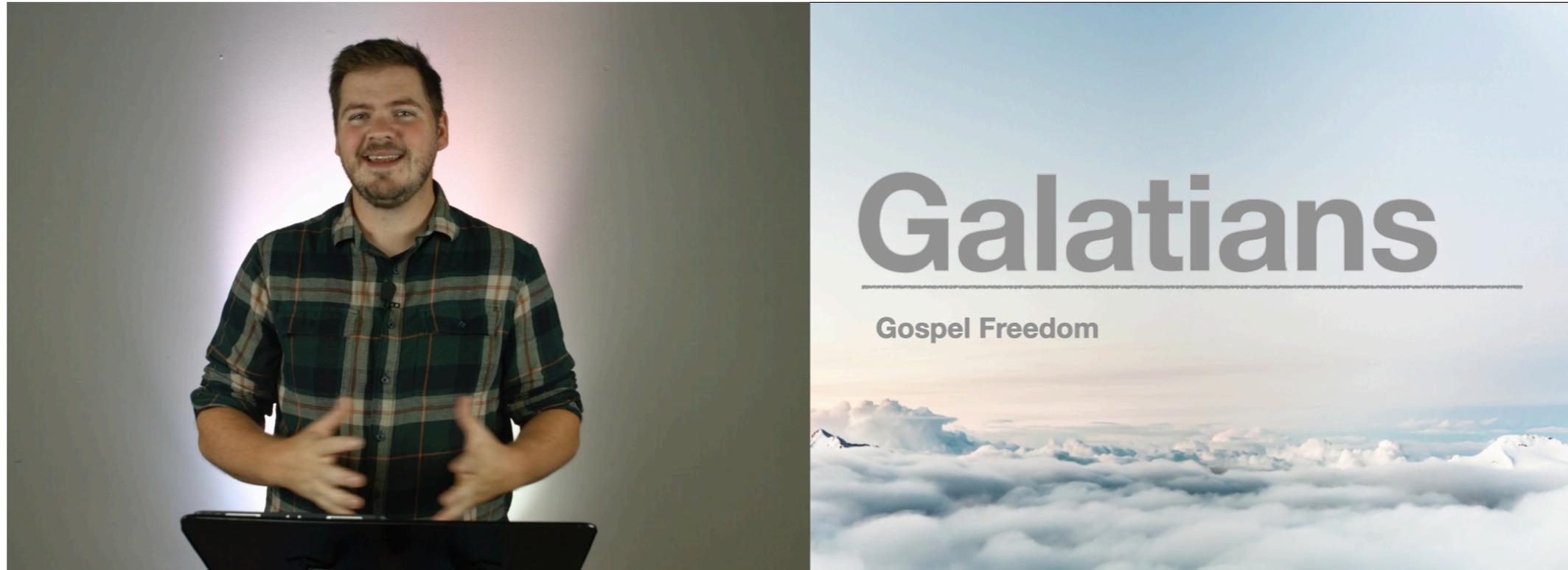
Back to “normal”

In October, it felt like things finally settled into a regular routine and got back to “normal.” By normal, I mean several things. First, we moved back indoors. Over the summer and early fall, we met outside. It was a blessing to have everyone together in one space. Now, we are back inside with two services.

The second way we’ve been more “normal” is by restarting regular ministries. While we’ve been offering kids services for a little while, we are finally getting some of our other ministries back. The youth group has met regularly over the last month, I’ve been able to start a men’s group, and a ladies group is ready to start this week. It is so great to see God’s word being taught to all kinds of different people.

In particular, I am excited about the men’s group that I am co-leading the group with one of our deacons. We are going through the helpful book *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund. In his book, Ortlund unpacks Christ’s heart for sinners and sufferers. In other words, he talks about Christ’s heart for us. It was so encouraging to see many of our men come out to study God’s word together.





This month I also preached twice in my series through the book of Galatians. I love this series because Galatians is a book that is overflowing with the Gospel; and I love the Gospel. Both sermons came from an extended portion of the book where Paul defends the truth of the Gospel. The first passage (Gal 1:11-24) focused on how we can know the Gospel is true. The second (Gal 2:1-10) highlighted how the Gospel brings freedom and what we should do with it.

This last month I've also been preparing for our new members class. I am delighted to be able to walk through membership with four people who seem ready to commit to FBC. I'll be starting with them within a few days. What a blessing to have God add members to his church!

Connections in the Community

Many of the stand-out ministry experiences in October were small but wonderful. Two stories come to mind. Last year, we had a man join our congregation because of our community gardens. However, near the end of October, he was in desperate need of housing. Right now, it is very difficult to find affordable accommodations within the Waterloo region. It is even more difficult within New Hamburg. We helped search for a place, prayed desperately, and asked the church to keep him in mind, but we could not find anything. On the day that this person needed to move, God provided the perfect place for him in a nearby town. What an answer to prayer! Although he is moving away from our community, we are thankful that we impacted in his life.

A second story comes from a lady that reached out to me from a local community support centre. She was having trouble finding space for a parent's group to use for a midweek meeting. We were able to lend them the use of our building and deepen a relationship that has been growing steadily over the past few years. For many, it is intimidating to walk through the doors of a church. Now, we have another group breaking down that obstacle. I am looking forward to some opportunities about how we can impact this group with God's love and his gospel.

Again, I want to thank you for your support both financially and through prayer. God uses your gifts to accomplish his mission.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Phil 2:12–13