

## No Other Gospel

The Gospel is the “Good News” that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins, was buried, and then rose again the third day after His death. In believing this Gospel, we place our trust in Christ that His atonement is sufficient to take away our sins, and credit us with His perfect righteousness. His ministry while on earth was that of completely fulfilling the Mosaic Law to the last requirement. Therefore, when He died, it was not for His sins—He had none—but for the sins of those who trust Him. There is now nothing left for us to do but to receive the benefit of His substitutionary death and trust Him alone for our salvation. For the believer, there is nothing left to do but to trust Jesus. Our obedience to Him flows from that trust.

The Gospel alone has real power and authority, in that it alone can bring us into a relationship to God through Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Galatians, emphasizes that there is NO OTHER GOSPEL message other than that which he initially preached to them. He fastens on that theme because some were saying that in order to really be a believer in Christ, people had to fulfill the requirements of the Old Testament Law—that to become a Christian, or to be a Christian, one must first become a Jew. Of course there is no way for a Gentile (which amounts to most of us) by ancestry, so some teach that we become a “true Jew” by adopting the rules and regulations of the Old Testament dispensation.

But Paul, in addressing the Galatian Christians, says that their susceptibility to this kind of teaching was due to their spiritual immaturity (Galatians 1:6). He reminds them that to go back to being Jewish—or subject to the Law—is, in essence, desertion from Christ. This message isn’t the Gospel, but because it mentions Jesus, still bears some likeness to the Gospel. So it deceives its hearers, and then works to destroy their lives and their immortal souls.

Paul declares that this different “gospel” is, in fact, a counterfeit. Our young people might say that it is “bogus.” Anything that teaches something other than the grace (unmerited favor of God—we cannot earn it by anything that we do) and the finished work of

Christ on the Cross, is to be considered a false gospel. There are a number of other false “gospels” that are around today, such as:

--“easy believism,” that teaches that all one must do is mentally assent that Jesus died for one’s sins, without any evidence of repentance;

--“being nice,” that to be a Christian one has to be a nice person;

--the prosperity gospel or the “word-faith” movement that says that God saves people to be happy and wealthy;

--false emotionalism, that becoming a Christian is mainly an emotional event, and “feeling” like one is saved;

--modern Judaizers, who are not Jewish, but insist that one must seek to follow the Jewish ceremonial law.

Paul rejects any other gospel messages, for they pervert the true Gospel. He calls those who teach anything else, “fierce wolves,” who will be “speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:29-30). Even if they seemed to be upholding the Word of God, in fact they were denying Christ.

There is only one Gospel (Galatians 1:8-9). Paul condemns any other message in the strongest of terms—“Let them be accursed!” Even if an angel would teach it, or Paul says, even if he would teach it, it is not to be believed, for it isn’t the true message! How can Paul say this? Because he was one who once zealously upheld the message of the Jewish religion, and now has come to completely reject it for any other purpose than as a means to teach the need for Christ.

“Forgiveness of sins, a right standing with God, and the gift of the Holy Spirit—comes only by grace through faith in the work of Jesus Christ,” writes Harold Martin in his commentary on Galatians. There can be no adding to that work or message.

Friends, each of us must throw ourselves on the mercy of God, that for Christ's sake, He would withhold from us that which we deserve (eternal punishment in hell), and on the grace of God, that for Christ's sake, He would grant to us that which we do not deserve (eternal life). The only way we can do that is to repent—turn away from—of our sins, and trust Christ completely and alone to save us, apart from the works of the Law or the works of the flesh.

Do you know Jesus? Are you trusting Him alone to save you? Or are you trying to add to the Gospel other things to save you? Look to Jesus—alone!