

GALATIANS

Lesson 2 - 1:6-10 - “The True Gospel”

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Galatians 1:6-10 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

“I am amazed...”

2 Corinthians 11:2-4 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

Paul was amazed and disturbed by (1) how soon after they had embraced the truth that they had regressed into faith + works, and (2) how subtly the devil had deceived them (3) they were deserting “Him”-God!, not just a faith and (4) they were deserting “grace” – all God initiated

“ a different gospel”

We all know the “gospel” is “good news.” But good news of what?

... “that I can be saved?” – that makes it about me

...”That the world might be saved?” – that makes it about the world

Rather, the “gospel” = Jesus. Jesus is the “good news!”

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. See also 1 Cor. 1:23 His PERSON and His WORK

Fully man

Having at times no food, He is hungry;
having at times no water, He thirsts;
with long journeys, He is wearied;
prostrate with fatigue, He sleeps;
witnessing grief, He weeps;
moved by compassion, He blesses;
sorrowful in heart, He sighs;

needing divine strength, He prays;
loving God, He worships;
He repays affection with blessing;
He receives the gratuities of friends with thanks;
He dies on the Cross, as a condemned malefactor;
and with the human cry of surrender, "Father, in your hands I commend my spirit," He gives up His spirit.

Thus was He truly man. And had He not been this true man, one with us in nature, form, function, living and suffering and dying — He could not have . . .
stood in man's place,
borne man's sin,
endured man's penalty,
atoned for man's guilt, and
worked out man's salvation.

*From a sermon, preached by William Bacon Stevens in Philadelphia, October 11, 1865
(148 years ago)*

Fully God

You have only with a docile mind to open your Bible and read . . .
the acts done by Christ,
the attributes ascribed to Him,
the titles bestowed upon Him,
the divine worship given to Him,
the judgment which He is to exercise, and
the work which He came on earth to do —
to be convinced that, as the Apostle says, "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." *Wm. Stevens*

"some who are disturbing you"

The Galatians were being deceived by "Judaizers" — men who were preaching a Jewish form of Christianity, expecting circumcision and conformity to the Mosaic Law to accompany belief in Christ. But this is not our danger today.

DESERTING THE GOSPEL TODAY – 3 present day examples of "gospel + or –"

1. **"You are saved through you 'surrender' to Christ"** - as you exhibit right beliefs and behavior" (a typical mistake in evangelical churches today)
2. **"You are saved as long as you are a loving and good person"** – i.e. what you believe is not that important (a typical mistake in liberal churches today)
3. **"You are saved as you 'walk the straight and narrow'"** – i.e. conforming to an intolerant code of do's and don'ts (ritual, dress, diet, music, moves/TV, smoking, drinking, spiritual gifts, etc.) – (a typical mistake in legalistic or ritualistic or sometimes Pentecostal churches)

WHY IT MATTERS – or, "So What?"

1. A different gospel means you are deserting the one who called you (v.6)
2. A different gospel means there is no gospel at all – all grace or nothing (v. 7)
3. A different gospel means there is no rescue, only condemnation (v. 8-9)

THE STAKES ARE HIGH

- √ No wonder Paul shows such concern for others' spiritual security (“amazed,” deserting Him,” “different gospel,” “accursed?”
- √ No wonder Paul assures his motivation is to serve God, not men
- √ No wonder Paul emphasizes his authority is from God, not men