

## No Other Gospel – Part 1

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AM Service

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### Text:

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8: But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9: As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. 10: For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

### Introduction

We have been studying Paul's letter to the Galatian churches and we saw how Paul had begun his letter with a strong and passionate reminder what the gospel of grace really is. The opening greeting is not a just an ordinary greeting. It is a greeting inspired by the Holy Spirit where Paul asserts his apostleship and sets forth the true message of the gospel.

This morning, I invite you to consider with me [verses 5 to 10](#) in four headings, namely, Paul's **Amazement** (1:6), Paul's **Adversaries** (1:7), Paul's **Anathema's** (1:8-9), and Paul's **Aim** (1:10)

### I – Paul's Amazement

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Paul begins this section with the words "I marvel." Paul is amazed. He is surprised. He is astonished. He is dumbfounded. Paul shocked and disappointed with the believers in Galatia how they are so easily receiving the false teaching of the false teachers known as the Judaizers. **The Judaizers are basically teaching a gospel of works, a gospel of human of human efforts, and a gospel of human achievement.** This is the gospel that the believers in Galatia are in the process of receiving.

The apostle Paul was just with them and taught them the truth of the gospel. They had received and were saved by the gospel and now they are deserting the gospel of grace that the apostle Paul had taught them.

[Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed ...](#)

The word "removed" means "to transfer one's allegiance." It is a word used of soldiers who revolt and change sides in war. In other words, a "turncoat." That is what the Galatians were at.

They were in the process of becoming spiritual deserters from the gospel of grace. Apparently, this defection was in progress but was **not final and complete** because Paul is hoping that his letter to the Galatians could win them back to the true gospel.

This verse tells us that it is possible for true born-again believers, especially new Christians, to fall into erroneous doctrine. So, the apostle Paul had warned them before in ...

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29: For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30: Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31: Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Martin Luther in his Commentary on Galatians writes, *“A man labors for a decade before he succeeds in training his little church into orderly religion, and then some ignorant and vicious poltroon [coward] comes along to overthrow in a minute the patient labor of years. This happy condition secured by many years of arduous labors; some lunatic might spoil in a moment.”*

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed **from him ...**

Please understand that to desert the gospel is to desert God Himself, for God is one with the gospel. To turn from the Gospel of grace is to turn from the God of grace. To fall prey to this false gospel is to abandon and defect from God and to join up with the enemy and the devil himself. This is the worst kind of defection.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that **called you into the grace of Christ** unto another gospel:

It is God Himself who called them into the grace of Christ. It is God who called them out of darkness into the marvelous light. It is God Himself who called them, and saved them, and justified them, and sanctifies them, and preserves them by His grace and now they are abandoning the God of grace. How foolish! How insane!

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7: Which is not another ...

These Galatians were turning to another gospel, a completely different kind of a gospel, a gospel of good works rather than a gospel of grace.

“**Gospel**” means “**good news**,” but what the Judaizers are seeking the Galatians to receive is a message of bondage. The Judaizers’ gospel is no gospel at all. It is a gospel of human effort and achievement. They may have called it a gospel, but it was not good news at all. Their kind of gospel is non-saving gospel.

This word “**another**” means “**different**.” It means “**another of totally different kind**.” A totally different kind of gospel. A false, corrupt, perverted, non-saving gospel that in reality brings

bondage not freedom, **brings damnation not salvation**. That is a counterfeit gospel, a perverted gospel that damns.

We need to understand that **there is only one true saving gospel** and that is the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus is claiming an absolute monopoly on passage into the presence of God and every other way is a way that leads downward into perishing.

Acts 4:12 **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Anywhere on the earth, whenever anyone is to be saved it will only be by calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2:5 **For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**; 6: Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

There are not many ways to God. There is only one way to Him, and it is through the Lord Jesus Christ who lived a sinless life, who died the sinner's death, who rose again from the dead, who ascended back to Father, and who is now seated at the right hand of God, to ever intercede for us.

To desert this Gospel is to desert this one glorious and gracious Saviour. It is be removed from the one way of salvation and it is to desert God and our great Saviour Himself.

## II - Paul's Adversaries

Galatians 1:7 Which is not another; but **there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ**.

Paul now begins to describe the enemies of the gospel and of the cross. Whoever is an enemy of the cross is also Paul's enemy. You have heard the saying "*A man is known not only by the friends he makes but by the enemies he has made.*"

Anyone who perverts the gospel is **an enemy of Christ** and therefore, **an enemy of the church**. These false teachers known as the Judaizers have infiltrated the churches in Galatia which the apostle Paul had planted, with their perverted gospel. And Paul describes them as "**some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ.**" **To pervert the Gospel of Christ is to trouble the church**. To pervert the gospel is to trouble those who are saved by the one true saving gospel.

Galatians 1:7 Which is not another; but **there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ**.

This word “**trouble**” means **disturb**, to **shake up**, to **shake back and forth**. And this is what these false teachers were doing. They were **disturbing and shaking the Galatian Christian back and forth** with their false teaching. They were shaking up their faith and loyalty to the one true saving gospel and **throwing the believers into a state of confusion**. And **if there is confusion** in the church, **the church could not be effective**. The immediate outcome of the propagation of this deceitful, counterfeit gospel was the disruption of the fellowship of the believers as they worship and witness the Lord together.

Galatians 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

This word “**pervert**” means to **distort**. The idea is **changing something into its very opposite**. These false teachers were so changing the gospel message that it was being corrupted and **turning it into the very opposite of grace**. They perverted the gospel by substituting a doctrine of salvation by works for a doctrine of salvation by grace. They tamper with it by diluting it of its purity, of its simplicity and to tamper with the gospel is to trouble the church.

*“The legalists were determined to pervert the gospel by substituting law for grace, circumcision for the cross, works for faith, bondage for liberty, and self for Christ. Any change in the gospel of Christ is a corruption, interfering with its simplicity, its purity, and its effectiveness.” - KJV Bible Commentary*

Today, there are many substitutions, perversions and distortions of the true gospel. Let me give you three examples of distorted gospels.

### **1. The “Good Works” Gospel**

This perverted gospel teaches that we can earn our way into heaven by being good and doing good things. The truth is, salvation in Christ is a gift of God, and like all true gifts, **it is not earned but simply received**.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but **the gift of God is eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The Bible is clear. We do not do any works to be saved. We simply trust in Jesus Christ by receiving His free gift of salvation to us.

### **2. The “Prosperity” Gospel**

This perverted gospel teaches that Christians are guaranteed to be financially prosperous and if you are not, it is because you are not praying hard enough and that you simply need to name it and claim it. **It traps believers** into thinking that financial blessing and physical well-being are always the will of God for them.

*“The doctrine emphasizes the importance of personal empowerment, proposing that it is God's will for his people to be blessed. The atonement (reconciliation with God) is interpreted to include the alleviation of sickness and poverty, which are viewed as curses to be broken by faith. This is believed to be achieved through donations of money, visualization, and positive confession.” - Wikipedia*

### **3. The “Licentious” Gospel**

This perverted gospel abuses freedom in Christ. In this false teaching, Christians are taught that there are no moral laws God expects Christians to obey. It is true that Christians are not required to observe the Old Testament Law as a means of salvation, but that doesn't mean we can do whatever we want and live like the world.

The apostle Paul dealt with the issue of antinomianism in ...

[Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2: God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?](#)

*“No, we are not under the Old Testament Law. Yes, we are under the law of Christ. The law of Christ is not an extensive list of legal codes. It is a law of love. If we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we will do nothing to displease Him. If we love our neighbors as ourselves, we will do nothing to harm them. Obeying the law of Christ is not a requirement to earn or maintain salvation. The law of Christ is what God expects of a Christian.”*

The truth is a distortion of the Gospel is no Gospel at all. It's so important that we are able to distinguish the true gospel from the perverted gospel.

### **Closing Thoughts**

**How can we avoid these distortions?** We can avoid these distortions by **being well-grounded and rooted in Jesus Christ and His gospel**. We must be **rooted and built up in Him** and **established in the faith**. The solution is to not lose sight of the gospel of God's grace as revealed in the Scriptures. We must **drink deeply and daily from the riches of God's grace** and pray that we would become shaped and disciplined by the true gospel.

The Galatians were taught by Paul. They understood the message of grace, and yet they did not keep their focus on the true message. Instead, they listened to the deceivers who bought their false message. The way to stop false teaching is to quit listening to it.

Let me ask you this a simple question. *“If you were to die right now what are you trusting to get yourself to heaven?”* If you are relying on your goodness and good works, you will never make it to Heaven. For the Bible says in ...

[Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.](#)

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation has already been provided for sinners in Christ, and all who trust Christ are recipients of God's infinite grace. Salvation by works results in eternal death, but salvation by grace through faith in Christ results in life eternal. [Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house.](#)

**AMEN!**