

No Other Gospel

Background - Galatians

- The apostle Paul is greatly concerned for the Galatians as they are being lead astray by a different gospel
- The letter is written to confront false gospels and remind the Galatians of the true gospel
- Paul's urgency in the letter is very obvious

No Other Gospel

Galatians 1:1-12

¹ Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— ² and all the brothers with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

No Other Gospel

Galatians 1:1-12

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

No Other Gospel

Galatians 1:1-12

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

No Other Gospel

Galatians 1:1-12

¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹ I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel

- Enemies of the gospel have one thing in common; they either try and add something to or take something away from what Jesus has already finished
 1. The Pharisees (legalists of their day)
 - The letter to the Galatians is written to refute a false gospel that tried to add the burden of the law to the gentiles
 2. The Sadducees

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel – The Pharisee

- Place great importance on holiness and righteous living – made their own traditions equal to God’s law
- Separated themselves from the culture around them (made their own isolated sub-culture)
- Were considered by the people to be the religious leaders because of their “public religiousness”
 - Were accused by Jesus of doing their righteous acts for men’s approval

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel – The Pharisee

- Knew the Scriptures very well (some had memorized the entire Old Testament)
- Personal holiness and obedience to the law (their own tradition) took precedence over everything else (i.e. Loving their neighbour)
 - Very careful about what company they kept
 - Extremely careful not to become unclean

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel – The Sadducee

- Holiness was not a priority
- Embraced the pagan cultures that ruled over them (Rome/Greece)
- Disregarded large portions of Scripture
- Appealed to the affluent and elite of the Jewish people

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel

- Both the Pharisee and Sadducee way of life did not stay with the Jewish people
- They were present from Christianity's earliest beginnings
- Galatians is believed to have been Paul's first letter

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel – Christian Pharisees

- Separate/protect themselves from the culture
- Live by man-made rules that Jesus didn't even live by in an effort to have personal holiness
- Are usually seen as very religious people by others
- Are often unable to recognize sin in their own lives, but super at seeing the sins of others
- Are confident that living by the right formula will ensure holiness and salvation

No Other Gospel

Galatians 2:17-3:5

¹⁷ "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

No Other Gospel

Galatians 2:17-3:5

¹You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ²I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? ⁴Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? ⁵Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel – Christian Pharisees

- The results of following this false Gospel...
 - self-righteous, judgemental prudes or
 - depressed, despaired and fearful people
 - Both have little to no impact for the true gospel in the world around them (at least for the good!)
- The reason this is a false gospel...
 - False believe that faith is about them and what they do in an attempt to earn God's favour and get into heaven

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel – Christian Sadducees

- Blend in to the culture – (are not recognizable as being any different than the culture around them)
- Usually are more prevalent in affluent cultures
- Sin and Scripture is not taken seriously and the Bible is not seen as authoritative in any way
- Being approved by the culture is more important than being faithful to God
- Personally holiness is completely avoided

No Other Gospel

Romans 1:18-21

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

No Other Gospel

Romans 1:28-32

²⁸ Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

No Other Gospel

Ancient Enemies of the Gospel – Christian Sadducees

- The results of being a Christian Sadducee:
 1. Cannot tell the difference from those who hate Jesus
 2. Leads to such things as universalism – everybody gets in
 3. God and the things he cares about are not important
 4. Justification of lifestyle by disregarding God's word
- The reason this is a false gospel is that it sets you up as your own saviour and god where everything and everyone needs to meet your desires

No Other Gospel

How is having and understanding the true gospel related to holiness?

- Unless we recognize that we cannot add anything to what Jesus has already done, we can never actually accept the fact that it is Christ's holiness that we bear and not our own.
- The gospel is about Jesus and only Jesus

No Other Gospel

Who Rules in Your Life?

- All of us have both the Pharisee and Sadducee in us
- They are fighting for control of your life

The Point of this Message...

- Only Jesus is fit to rule your life
- Only Jesus can make you holy
- Only Jesus can save you
- The gospel is about what Jesus did only