

NO OTHER GOSPEL

Galatians Series

- Paul writing a group of churches in Roman province Galatia
- Had been there on missionary journey – planted churches
- Gentile area – leaders are insisting on religious conditions
- with great concern, passion – apostolic authority – letter
- clear teaching on justification by faith, freedom in Christ

6 “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in 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 them be under God’s curse!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 them be under God’s curse!¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Interesting departure for Paul

- no praise for how they have been doing
- no thanksgiving for the joy their participation brings him

Says – ‘I am astonished’

- hard to surprise a guy like Paul – seen pretty much everything
- hard language for the opening lines of a conversation

1. What has Paul Sideswiped?

a) deserting or turning away from the gospel

- ‘so quickly’ – in a short time frame you have moved a lot
- they have heard and encountered the truth (1:3-5)

- Jesus gave himself in our place, that we might be forgiven, redeemed, justified, set free to relationship with God
- This in accordance to the will of God the Father
- personal – not just ideas or concepts
 - wording – him who called you
 - revealed it to you – began a relationship
- astonished that they would embrace something different
 - Gal. 5:4 “You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”
 - Gal 3:1 “You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish?”

b) Attacked From Within

- **Aware that the false leadership is from inside their group**
- **some are ‘throwing you into confusion’ , ‘trying to pervert the gospel of Christ’**
- **clarifies – not two truths – one gospel and then lies**
- **Happens today just like then:**
 - **take the truth, peoples response to it – add something**
 - **convey gospel not complete without.....**
 - **adherence to the law**
 - **practices, rituals, traditions**
 - **experiences, agendas, programs**
 - **writings or following a certain leader**

- suggests Jesus and the finished work on the cross is insufficient – must also

- puts the focus back on you – not on Jesus and His work

- becomes something you can qualify for, earn or do

* Paul saw this coming – attack and subtle changes

“For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. ²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.” Acts 20:27-31

2. Clear Warning

a) 'If anyone'

- we, angel from heaven, friends, leaders – anyone**
- don't miss this covers visions, dreams, hearing voices**

b) Distorts the Simple Truth

- Jesus and his work on the cross is the source of Justification**
- You can receive grace by faith – forgiven, reconciled, restored**
- Gift of God, Responded to with repentance, acceptance, love**

c) Let them Be Accursed

- serious words for those who might add to or distort this truth**

- twice repeated – no mistaking it – eternally condemned
- serious consequences for those that might seek to add a following, gain influence, take gain from – by adding to the truth

3. Clear About Who I Serve

- Paul has called out these teachers on their heresy, offended a few, stepped on toes, these are friends, people with relationships – close to one another

a) priority list

- Pleasing God – stakes are too high to be afraid of people
- suggests as a persecutor of the church – driven by men and pleasing them – not now

b) Word of Caution

- we can become known for what we are against instead of who we are for. Careful how this is handled

- Paul is not out to alienate and offend people

- 1 Cor 10:31 *“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³ even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. “*

- Romans 15:2 *“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.”*

So What

1. Remember How Easily Things Can Be Distorted

- usually the truth with a half twist
- easy to spot – it's the gospel and.....

***text outright denies pluralism or universalism**

- Aware of and on guard for this – usually from within
- **1 Cor 14:20** *“Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.”*

2. See The Stakes

- call for them to be eternally condemned – scary
- not to be taken lightly or easily dabbled in

3. Decide Who You Serve

- clarify the priority list of who and what has authority**
- stand firm carefully**
 - it will probably involve those you love and appreciate**
 - use the biblical lines for resolution**
- pleasing God and being faithful to the truth will land you in the crosshairs of others.**