

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit
So Soon Removed to Another Gospel
Galatians 1**

Last time...Paul returned to Ephesus

- met 12 disciples and was an instrument of their spiritual growth
- went to the synagogue, reasoning with the Jews for 3 months
- hard hearts led to the separation of the believers
- from this fellowship/church meeting in a school, revival broke out and the Word increased in all of Asia

This time...while Paul is in Ephesus for 2 years, he is inspired by the Holy Spirit to write 2 letters of correction to churches he has planted – Galatians and 1 Corinthians

Galatians: so soon removed from God the Father unto another gospel

1 Corinthians: plagued by divisions, contentions, and a host of carnal issues

The first letter he writes is to the churches in Galatia

How did we get here, what led up to Paul's writing this letter?

Paul, formally known as Saul of Tarsus, persecuted the Church

Acts 7:58-60	consented to Stephen's murder, heard his testimony
Acts 8:1	at the center of great persecution in Jerusalem
Acts 9:1	zealously threatening disciples of Jesus everywhere
Acts 9	stopped in his tracks and converted by a personal visit from Jesus Christ while on his way to Damascus
Acts 11:25-26	chosen to be the apostle to the Gentiles taught in the church at Antioch for a year
Acts 13	sent by the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel 1 st Missionary Journey [map]
Acts 13:14-41	powerful witness to the Jews in Antioch in Pisidia; Justification by faith, not by the Law
Acts 14:1-22	preaching the Gospel in Galatia, planting churches and exhorting them to continue in the faith
Acts 15	1 st Church Counsel – what to do with the Gentile believers
	Acts 15:5-11
	Acts 15:24-29 James' letter
	Acts 15:41 Paul delivers, Galatia
Acts 16-17	2 nd Missionary Journey [map]

Acts 19

3rd Missionary Journey [map], 2 years in Ephesus

The Kingdom of God was preached

- A. The King is Jesus Christ
- B. Righteousness – of God by the faith of Christ, Who gave Himself for sinners
- C. The nature of the citizens – born-again of the Spirit of God, whosoever would believe
- D. The entrance requirements – salvation is by grace thru faith not works
- E. The invitation – the Gospel

And

- The Holy Spirit was moving!
- The Word was growing!
- Faith in Jesus Christ was erupting!
- Revival in Asia!

But, where God is working, so is the devil!

The churches of Galatia,

- the first churches planted by Paul
- visited and strengthened on each Missionary Journey by Paul
- recipients of James' letter

are being corrupted by another gospel and are in need of another reminder of God's way of salvation

We will be in Gal 1

v1-2 Paul...and all the brethren:

Every Letter has a Salutation...From/To

From: Paul

- an apostle, the 12th apostle
 - chosen by Jesus as were the other 11
 - office filled by God, not man
- a calling of God, not
 - a hireling of an Elder Board
 - a promotion earned by merit or seniority
 - a degree earned at a seminary of man

all the brethren with Paul...in Ephesus

To: the churches of Galatia

- Antioch in Pisidia
- Iconium
- Lystra
- Derbe

v3-5 Grace...peace...gave himself:

The Greeting to the churches, the very foundation upon which this letter stands

- Grace and peace
 - Grace: not merit or performance or justice
 - Rom 5:1 justified/declared innocent by faith thru Jesus
 - the sequence is important: No peace without grace
 - “staples” of the spiritual food in the Epistles
- from God the Father
 - Who raised Jesus from the dead (v1)
- from our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Who gave Himself for our sins
 - a gift from the OTL and holy God to sinful, dead-in-his-sin man
 - John 1:29
 - John 3:16
 - Matt 20:28b
 - to deliver us from this present evil world
 - the purpose of The Gift is deliverance from evil
 - whosoever would believe be “in” but not longer “of” (John 17)
 - the will of the Father (1 Tim 2:4)
- All glory to God, no glory to man

After the Salutation and the all-important Greeting, Paul jumps head first into the issue at hand

He wastes no time with small talk, he gets right down to business because the matter is urgent, Code Blue

v6-7 so soon removed...another gospel...pervert the Gospel of Christ:
The churches in Galatia are backslidden, having swapped out the Gospel for a false gospel

Paul is amazed, flabbergasted, that these churches

- the work of the Holy Spirit
- that he was used to plant and nurture and strengthen

are so soon/quickly

- removed from Him that called them...God the Father
- “changed sides” regarding the Gospel...they are runaways
- “perverted” that which is of God
- “exchanged” the calling of the Father with something else

into

- the Gospel of Christ
 - 1 Cor 15:3-4
 - Man’s work/merit: sin, the wages of which is death
 - Jesus’ work/merit: defeat sin and death
- the Gospel of grace
 - justification/salvation by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ

to

- another gospel
 - another “good news”
 - justification/salvation by works, man’s merit to obtain righteousness/acceptance with God
 - Jesus Plus
- NOT another gospel because it is NOT good news, but
 - BAD news
 - a crushing, hope-sucking burden
 - a return to bondage
 - a deception

The gospel of Christ...salvation by grace thru faith...is:

1. exclusive – the ONLY way (John 14:6)
2. absolute – there are no variations or shades of gray

Where is this deception of “another gospel” coming from?

Those who are troubling them...they are listening to trouble!

False teachers perverting the Gospel by adding to it – works of man

Judaizers, purveyors of “Jesus Plus” (Acts 15:5)

Salvation belongs to the Jews

A Gentile must be converted to Judaism to become a Christian

The evil addressed by the 1st Church Council and James’ letter lives on

“According to the Scripture”, the very words of God to mankind

Man is separated from God by sin/unbelief (Is 59:1)

By sin came death into the world

The dead (man) cannot make himself alive, cannot work his way out of the grave,
by doing

- more good deeds (by what/whose judgment) than bad deeds
- anything – dead is dead

Only the One Who has power over death can make the dead alive

John 10:17-18

Acts 2:23-24

Acts 4:12

Heb 2:14-15

Therefore, Life is a gift from God to dead-in-sin man, not a wage earned by man
to be pleasing to God

But “another gospel” is contradicting God, bringing back the bondage of death
What does the Holy Spirit say about “another gospel”?

v8-9 let him be accursed:

The Holy Spirit has VERY STRONG words to say about “another gospel” and
any creature that would dare preach it, contradicting Father and Son:

Anathema!

- cursed
- damned
- condemned
- excommunicated
- loathed
- detested

Anathema!

Repeated, like a blast from a double-barreled shotgun
Leaving no confusion about where God stands on the Gospel

v10 persuade...please:

The reasons for the preaching of the Gospel...and “another gospel”...
are examined

1. persuade

Am I trying to convince man that God knows best and is

- Truth
- right
- worthy
- good

Or am I trying to convince God that man knows best and is

- Truth
- right
- worthy
- good

2. please

Does the preaching of The Gospel please God (holy and pure)
or man (unholy, defiled, corrupt)?

If I preach what man wants to hear rather than what God has said,
I cannot please God

To please man is to displease God, The Almighty,
so that is completely irrational

v11-12 I certify:

Paul then (again, I am sure) give the origins, authenticity, and bibliography of the Gospel he preached to them:

- not
 - after man...not of, not belonging to, not originating with man
 - man would never write “this script”!
 - natural man is offended by the Gospel of Christ!
 - learned of man, not taught by man, not distributed by man
- but
 - after, of, coming from the supernatural revelation of Jesus Christ...directly from the Source Himself
 - belonging to God, His Plan and Gift
 - learned at the feet of Jesus (John 1:17)

The Gospel of Christ is a Divine message, not a carnal or worldly message
It is a message originating in heaven, not on earth

“Another gospel” is worldly, originating on earth...nothing Godly about it

Now Paul goes on the share (again, I am sure) of the authenticity of his calling

v13-16 my conversation:

A synopsis for Paul's behavior, his personal testimony:

- a very accomplished Jew and exceeding zealous for the Law of Moses
- the preeminent persecutor and destroyer of the Church

- But when it pleased God
 - in His way and in His time
 - Who separated me from my mother's womb
 - brought me into this world from my mother's womb
 - what does this say about life in the womb, before birth?!
 - called me by His grace, not His justifiable condemnation for my works
 - revealed His Son, Jesus Christ in me, the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit of Christ
 - called me to preach Jesus Christ (and Him crucified and risen) to the heathen/nations/Gentiles
 - Rom 1:16-17

- I conferred/consulted/collaborated/discussed/compared notes with no man...
 - because my calling was from God and not man
 - God is the First and the Last consultant, no opinions from man are needed

v17-19 I went into Arabia:

Paul, a very accomplished student of the Law of Moses, did not go to Jerusalem to be taught by the "unlearned" (Acts 4:13) 11 other apostles... he conferred with Jesus Christ Himself!

He went to Arabia

- led by the Spirit of God
- to Mount Sinai (ala Moses and Elijah)?
- to be instructed in righteousness for 3 years, just like the other 11 apostles had been
- for a 1:1 with Jesus

Then to Damascus and Jerusalem to see

- Peter, apostle to the Jews
- James, pastor of the Church in Jerusalem
(remember his letter about this issue that I delivered to you?!)

v20-24 I lie not:

As God as my witness, all of this is “the Gospel truth”

From meeting with Peter and James, the Lord put me, His servant, to work

- Syria/Antioch
- Cilicia/Tarsus

And God’s hand and calling upon my life transforming my life and work
circulated widely and the churches praised God for what He did

Application/Lessons

The Lesson is, or should be, obvious – the issue into which Paul/Holy Spirit immediately jumped

Beware: do not be so soon removed from the Gospel of Grace to another (all are false) gospel
“change sides”...from the Living God to the god of this world!

RCC	works
Social	humanist
Prosperity	covetousness
Mysticism	demonic

The integrity of the gospel (God’s gift, God’s grace) is attacked and compromised by
false teachers.

Acts 17:11

By adding anything to the Gospel of Christ, man shifts

- the focus from Jesus Christ to himself
- the comparison from the righteousness of Jesus Christ to other people
- from the carnally uncomfortable to the carnally comfortable

The world prefers religion to a relationship with the OTL God

The god of this world = the author of all religions – works-based salvation

The world wants warm, positive, humanist messages vs reproof, rebuke, correction, and
instruction in righteousness

The Gospel of Christ is a spiritual revelation, NOT a social construct or a religious creed

Ministry of the Gospel is NOT social work or religious work, it is spiritual work

There is only one Good News – 1 Cor 2:2

In these days of deception, it is paramount to know the Truth and to never compromise it
Remember, do not forget!