**GALATIANS 1:6-10 A DIFFERENT GOSPEL?**

We continue our journey in the epistle to the Galatians that we started last week. This is the epistle that Paul wrote to defend liberty in Christ as the gospel is certainly emphasized. Paul did not tolerate legalism or anything that challenged the grand doctrine of grace. He did not waste any time at all, in that as soon as he introduced himself and the Triune God, he went right to the heart of the matter. There is no hem hawing around for Paul as He addresses the Galatians head on. What they were doing disturbed him greatly and he immediately gets their attention of why he is writing. The thing that bothers Paul the most is false teaching and legalism that tries to come into the church and mix with grace, which is entirely impossible. It certainly was the thing that Christ hated the most also. It is something that cannot be tolerated in the church in any way. Pau was intolerant when it came to anything contradicting truth. The church, too must be intolerant or it will weaken down and eventually be demised.

Our title this morning, is the question, a different gospel?. This starts at verse 6 as the letter had just begun and here we are. Verses 6-10 is why Paul is writing this epistle. Paul uses the phrase “a different gospel”, and of course there is no other gospel than the one way that is prescribed in the Bible. But there were certain people who came in after Paul left and proceeded to bring in things foreign to the Gospel of grace that Paul had taught. Many people were misled by this teaching and were buying the way of legalism. They had the absolute perfect truth and it was freedom in Christ and they were trading that in for bondage. Why would anyone trade freedom for slavery and bondage? That is exactly what Paul was thinking. He has a rather scathing rebuke for them. This is what we are examining today.

Now, the primary target of all false teachers is to attack the doctrine of salvation. You know why? Well, it's the only way they can guarantee that the soul is damned and kept from God. Because if you never get to the truth of salvation, the rest of it doesn't mean anything. And if you do get to the truth of salvation, whatever else Satan might try to do, really doesn't get the job done, because you're already belonging to God. And so he concentrates primarily on the method of salvation. Now, what was Paul's message about salvation? Salvation is by grace, period. Now, what do you think the false teachers are going to say? They would say, "Yes. It's by grace and..." See? That's deceiving. Subtle. It will always end up with grace + something else. This is why the reformers proclaimed grace alone.

**1. TURNCOATS 1:6**

A. DESERTING GOD

They were deserting a personal relationship with God. They went back to the garbage cans and started eating from them again. They are not just turning from a doctrine, or an idea. Don't fall prey to the notion that a concern for doctrine is impersonal. The gospel is the very personalgood news of God's call to you. If you turn to a different gospel, you turn away from a person, God, and that is astonishing.

GAL 5:4, They had fallen away from the most precious thing there is, grace.

3:1 They were leaving the Gospel.

ASTONISHING!—I am completely freaked out. People were beginning to turn away from the truth and going the way of false teaching. They were turning and Paul was amazed at what they were doing. He was stunned. He couldn’t hardly believe it.They were going AWOL. It is amazing that people would leave. "I marvel," or I wonder, thaomadzo in the Greek. "I wonder, I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel." His wonder. He's writing because he can't believe they have defected so soon.  What this word really means is, "It's incredible to me. I'm astonished. I cannot fathom this. It is absolutely incredulous that you have denied grace." He was amazed that the Galatians bought what they were selling so quickly. Look at it. It says, "I marvel that you are so soon removed." Now, that either means so quickly, in the sense of easily or readily, or else it means so soon after I've been with you. Either way, he is shocked that so soon after he's been with them, they so easily defected.

WHO CALLED YOU The Gospel is a personal call from God. 2 THESS 2:13-14, 2 TIM 1:8-9

GRACE OF CHRIST----he calls it the grace of Christ. This is the fact that God in grace gave us His Son to die. God in grace calls us to Himself. God in grace justifies us when we believe. Paul said in [II Corinthians 5:18](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/II%20Corinthians%205.18), "All is from God," and what he meant was all is of grace. Everything in salvation is grace. "For by grace are you saved through faith, that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." No part of salvation is yours. And this is what Paul preached, the grace of Christ. Grace simply means God's freedom to love and to grant the gift of salvation apart from anything you are or anything you do. That's grace. Well, why do you get so upset? I mean, this is pretty good." Well, you see, if you take grace and add anything to it, grace is no more grace. And, don't you see, that's the subtlety of Satan? Of course he wants to make it so much like the truth that we mistake it. That's the danger, so much the danger of religion today. To turn from the gospel of grace is to turn from God. I say this because Paul said it. You cannot, you cannot forsake pure grace without forsaking God

B. DESERTING THE GOSPEL

Now, notice the word deserting--"removed." "I marvel you are so soon removed." That is literally the word to defect. It is used in a military sense of a revolt. It is translated in old lexicons to transfer one's allegiance. It's a defection. It's a deserter. It's the word used for a turncoat. Paul says, "I can't believe it. You're already spiritual deserters. You're turncoats.

They were making a complete change of allegiance. They put on a different uniform. This is radical. This would be like Ronald Reagan becoming a communist.

DIFFERENT GOSPEL 2 CORINTHIANS 11:4

Heteros means another of a different kind, allos means another of the same kind  Better to translate it "unto another gospel which is not the same gospel. And, you see, the thing that was masking the deceit of the false teachers was that it sounded like the same gospel. Why? Because it had Christ dying and rising again and being the Messiah and believing in Him. And all they did was add works at the beginning and works at the end, without changing the middle, and that was the subtlety of Satan. Do you see it? And any other gospel is a perversion of the truth. And that's why it's so important for us to be careful.

The Gospel is that God is gracious to undeserving sinners. None of us can clean up our act enough that God would accept us. It took the righteous one without sin and did perfect works who is the only acceptable one before the Father. He took our place in our sin and died for our sins so that we would be righteous before the holy one. The different gospel is a matter of your own works and not grace. True faith has no merit about it. It receives the physicians medicine. It only receives the medicine that is needed to make one well. Paul had proclaimed this message of the cross and grace and they had believed but now they were receiving something else.

NOT ANOTHER GOSPEL There is only one gospel and it is what Paul preached. The Bible does not teach pluralism. That is very popular today but it has no biblical form. There is no other good news. The alternative gospel is not on the order of Buddhism or Hinduism or Muslim. It is on the order of an in house distortion. It was taught people who knew James and came from Jerusalem. It was promoted by men who called themselves Christian "brothers" (2:4).

Doctrinal maturity is not a luxury at Grace Community. It is a necessity. If a "different gospel," which is no gospel but only a perversion, can spring up inside the church, then surely we must make it our aim to become rigorous and discriminating in our doctrinal knowledge. Paul said in [1 Corinthians 14:20](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Corinthians%2014.20), "Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; be babes in evil, but in thinking be mature." Galatians is one of the best books in the Bible for helping us refine and clarify what the heart of the gospel is, which can't be replaced or altered. There is a tragic pattern in churches and in history, I think. Renewal breaks forth on a church or on an age through a fresh encounter with the gospel and the Spirit. Hearts are filled with the love of Christ, and mouths are filled with praise. The concern for evangelism and justice rises.

But in all the glorious stirrings of heart there begins to be an impatience with doctrinal refinements. Clear doctrine requires thought, and thought is seen to be the enemy of feeling, so it is resisted. There is the widespread sense that the Holy Spirit will guard the church from all error, and so rigorous study and thought about the gospel are felt to be not only a threat to joy but a failure of faith. The result over a generation is the emergence of a people whose understanding of biblical teaching is so hazy and imprecise that they are sitting ducks for the Galatian heresy. It arises right in their midst. Paul said to the elders of Ephesus in [Acts 20:30](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%2020.30), "From among your own selves will arise men speaking distorted things to draw away the disciples after them." He says in verse 27 that he has done his part to prepare them by "declaring the whole counsel of God." I hope to be able to say the same thing some day about Grace Community: "I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

**2. TROUBLEMAKERS 1:7**

A. CONFUSING

 The word "trouble" means to shake or agitate or stir up. They literally threw them into confusion.

You remember when the disciples were in the boat and the storm came up, and Jesus was walking on the water? It's used in [Luke 1:12](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke%201.12) of Zechariah when he saw an angel. He was shook up. It's used in [John 14:1](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2014.1), where Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled." ACTS 20:30, GAL 2:4

DISTURBING This is like a tumble dryer. It is agitation. People were shaking, rattling, and rolling because of these false teachers.

B. PERVERTING

DISTORT You know what the word "pervert" literally means? Reverse. You add one work to grace, and you've reversed it and turned it into a works system. They weren't just fouling up the plan of salvation. They were reversing it, and turning it into a works system. You cannot modify grace. You just destroy it. And so they came in and they really laid their credentials out, and they moved right in to pervert the truth. And their perversion was legalism

TITUS 1:10-11 PHIL 3:2

My responsibility this morning is not to entertain you, not to educate you, but it is that you become established in the truth, established in the gospel, that you would stand strong in the Lord. The Gospel must be confirmed in you. I am to be devoted to reading the Scripture, to teach it, preach it. I am to be diligent in this matter. We are to watch our life and doctrine. That will keep us from being perverted by all of the false teachers out there. We must know the Word so we can discern between truth and error.

**3. ANATHEMA 1:8-9**

A. WE OR AN ANGEL FROMHEAVEN CONTRARY TO TRUTH

Hyperbole Each one must examine the scriptures daily. You must hold me accountable in that what I say is the Word of God. You must check everything out. Don’t just take my word for it. You must sit under solid Biblical teaching.

B. ACCURSED—DAMNED, DESTRUCTION IN ETERNAL HELL

WRATH OF GOD We must take this literally. We must not take it lightly.

CONDEMNATION

ROMANS 9:3, Cut off from Christ 2 THESS 1:9, Cut off from the presence of God

1 COR 16:22 To Paul the Gospel is that the awesome eternal life of God is offered to undeserving, sinful man And when that offer of eternal grace to utterly unworthy creatures like us is rejected or perverted to satisfy our pride, somewhere someone must rage at the heinousness of the crime. O, how we need to meditate on the horror of rejecting the gospel.

THE HORROR OF REJECTING THE GOSPEL Torment and endlessness

And when that offer of eternal grace to utterly unworthy creatures like us is rejected or perverted to satisfy our pride, somewhere someone must rage at the heinousness of the crime. O, how we need to meditate on the horror of rejecting the gospel.  Satan does his best with television and radio and all the rest of media to create in us a mind that is so trivial and banal and petty and earthly that we find ourselves incapable of feeling what terrifying truth is in this word anathema. Satan has used the media to create in our minds, a mindset that is so trivial. We do not have the capacity to feel horror at the word anathema. We don’t believe it because we have become numb. We should be utterly stunned at anathema. O, how we need to guard ourselves from the barrage of eternity-denying entertainment. We need to cultivate a pure and childlike imagination that hears a word like anathema the way a child hears his first peal of thunder, or feels his first earthquake, or suffers his first storm at sea. The Bible does not reveal to us the eternal curse of God that we may yawn and turn the page. The wrath of God is revealed to shake unbelievers out of their stupor, and to take the swagger out of the Christian's walk  We need the wonder that a child has. We need to taste the bitterness.

C. DEVOTED TO DESTRUCTION

Now, God has set certain things apart for cursing, for destruction. Whenever God sets something apart to be destroyed, it is devoted to destruction. And the word that literally means devoted to destruction is the word "anathema." And that is the word that is used at the end of verse 8 and at the end of verse 9. And throughout the history of God's dealings with man, there have been certain things which God has devoted to destruction

in verse 17 the Bible says this. Joshua 6, "And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are in it, to the Lord." In other words, God was devoting Jericho to destruction. There was to be nothing left. "Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent." God spares Rahab. "And ye, in every way, keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when you take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it."

And it means that He is devoting it to be destroyed. He is setting it apart for the purpose of destruction. And he says in 19, "the silver, gold, and vessels of bronze and iron," those things which are worth something, "are to be consecrated unto the Lord and come into the treasury of the Lord." The rest of it, which was worth nothing, was to be destroyed.

But in chapter 7 we find an interesting thing that happened, beginning in verse 1. "But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing." Instead of leaving alone what God had devoted to destruction, they tried to salvage something. They tried to salvage something out of that which was anathema.

And the man who did it was a man by the name of "Achan, the son of Carmi

God had devoted it to destruction. They had tried to salvage it, at least Achan had. And God said, "You'd better get rid of it or I'll turn my back on you.

This is something which God is cursing. And it means that He is devoting it to be destroyed. He is setting it apart  MATTHEW 24:24, JN 8:44, 1 TIM 1:20, TITUS 1:16

**4. MEN PLEASERS 1:10**

A. NOT TO ALIENATE PEOPLE, HOWEVER

The meaning is not—the more people you can displease, the more spiritual you are. That was never Paul’s aim.

1 COR 10:31, ROMANS 15:2-FF, COL 4:6 It is good to please your neighbor if it edifies him and glorifies God.

B. ONE AIM, PLEASE GOD IN EVERYTHING

Was Paul pleasing men.? Would Paul be a popular conference speaker today? I would doubt if he would be. He would probably seem too abrasive. Too many people would be offended at the truth Paul spoke. He probably wouldn’t be winning friends and influencing people, He is willing to talk this way because pleasing people is much lower on his list of priorities than serving Christ.

If the gospel is twisted, the all-sufficiency of Christ's work is dishonored, and the way to salvation for sinners is blocked. Therefore, in order to serve Christ—to advance his glory and achieve his saving purpose—Paul must oppose the perversion of the gospel with all his might, whether it pleases people or not. For the glory of Christ (6:14) and for the good of those who may yet believe the gospel (2:5), Paul is willing to speak unpleasant truth.

The most thrilling implication of verse 10 for me personally is this: The absoluteness of Christ's lordship is gloriously liberating. It frees me from having to worry about pleasing one person here and another person there. It brings unity and integrity to my life. When you live to please only one person, everything you do is integrated because it relates to that one person. Shall I go to this movie? Read this book? Make this purchase? Take this job? Go out on this date? Marry this person? What a freeing thing it is to know that there is one person who is to be pleased in every decision of life—Jesus. Sometimes pleasing him will please others. Sometimes it won't, and that will hurt. But the deep joy of a single-minded life is worth it all.