

THAT OTHER GOSPEL

Galatians 1:1-9

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THEME: The Apostle Paul marveled that the Galatians had so quickly left the pure teachings of Christ and His gospel in order to follow another gospel. But this other gospel is still with us today. It always starts with the gospel of Christ. Then, it simply adds something to that gospel. Be sure that you have the pure gospel as your foundation for eternal life. [Read Galatians 1:1-9]

- The believers in the Galatian region had turned to “**ANOTHER gospel**” ... “**which is NOT another**” (Gal 1:6-7). We will look at the true Gospel first to get an understanding of this statement.

I. **THE TRUE GOSPEL (1Corinthians 15:1-4) ...by which ye are saved.**

A. **Its Outline**

1. **The death of Christ for our sins**

- Jesus Christ took upon Himself the judgment that we deserve. He suffered our judgment on the cross. He suffered our hell.

2. **The burial of Christ**

- The historical fact that Jesus Christ was buried for 3 days and 3 nights proves that He was dead.

3. **The resurrection of Christ**

- Christ’s resurrection provides eternal life. His death could give forgiveness, but not the power of eternal life.
 - He had the power to take up His life again (Jn 10:17). Therefore He has power to give us eternal life.

B. **Its Authority**

1. **According to the scriptures (vs 3, vs 4)**

a. **Scriptures refer to the holy writings of God: compare *scribble, inscribe, inscription, etc.***

- The gospel is clearly established in the Holy Scriptures. The cross-work of Jesus Christ and His resurrection are the fulfillment of prophecies.

b. **Scripture is our authority for all doctrine (2Timothy 3:16)**

2. **Not based on other authorities**

a. **Not Tradition: the authority of man’s long-time practice (Mat. 15:1-9, esp.v.3,6,9; Colossians 2:8)**

- There are good traditions and bad traditions. But the gospel is not established by any tradition. Tradition cannot replace the authority of the Holy Scriptures.
 - Teaching for doctrines the commandments of men (Mt 15:9) is vain.
 - If tradition is your authority, the commandment of God is of none effect (Mt 15:6).
 - Elevating tradition above God’s commandments is a transgression (Mt 15:3) because those traditions go against God’s commandments.

b. **Not Experience: the authority of personal experience (Romans 10:2-3)**

- People often elevate their experience above the Holy Scriptures (“*This happened to me, so it is of God*”). Authority for truth must be according to knowledge (Rom 10:2) of the scriptures.

c. **Not Philosophy: the authority of man’s greatest wisdom (Colossians 2:8; Acts 17:18, with v.16,22,23)**

- People who think they know more than God, will make their own wisdom an authority above God’s scriptures.
 - Includes pragmatism (do whatever works at the time), ignoring the authority of God’s word.

- d. **Not Science:** the authority of observable facts and repeatable physical laws (I Timothy 6:20)
 - e. **Not Scholarship:** authority of academic learning and agreed upon knowledge (2Tim 3:7; Isa 29:9-12)
- You may have a picture in your mind about how you'll get to heaven, but you're headed for danger if your way is not the gospel according to the scriptures. The truth of scripture will mess up your personal picture of what is right, but it will save you from eternal damnation.

II. THE END OF THE TRUE GOSPEL

- A. **The Offer of Salvation** (Gal 1:4) God wants to give you eternal life.
- B. **The Reception of Salvation.** God wants you to receive salvation.
 - 1. **As an event (John 3:3-7; 5:24).** One moment you're lost, the next moment you are saved by grace.
 - Salvation is not a gradual process wherein you attempt to earn a place in heaven through good works.
 - The Bible compares salvation to birth (John 3:3-7). There is a time in which you are born of the Spirit.
 - The Bible also contrasts salvation with death (John 5:24).
 - 2. **Through the gospel (Romans 1:16; 10:9-10; Ephesians 1:13)**
 - The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16).
 - The gospel convinces us to give up our way (Isa 53:6) and confess Jesus Christ for salvation (Rom 10:9-10).

III. THE OTHER GOSPEL

- A. **The Same Elements: "Which is not another"** (Gal 1:7)
 - 1. **Accepts the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ**
 - 2. **Claims to come to Jesus by faith in Him**
- B. **The Difference**
 - 1. **Does not directly subtract from the gospel**
 - 2. **Rather adds to the gospel** (teaching that you must work for salvation)
 - a. **The teaching of the Judiazers (Acts 15:1, 5)** (enforcing circumcision and keeping of the Law).
 - b. **The problem of the Galatians (Galatians 3:1-3; 4:4-11; 6:12-13)** adding other things to the gospel.
 - Churchgoers today add church membership, baptism, keeping the Ten Commandments, being nice. Trusting those things is another gospel "which is not another." Those things will not give you salvation. They are a result of salvation.
 - They also add traditions and personal experiences as part of salvation.

IV. THE EVILS OF THE OTHER GOSPEL

- A. **A Message Accursed (Galatians 1:8-9)** It is evil to preach another gospel. It sends people to hell.
- B. **Subtraction by Addition**
 - 1. **By adding to the requirements for salvation, they deny the sufficiency of the gospel**
 - 2. **Faith in the work of Christ becomes faith in their own works (Galatians 5:4).** Salvation is by God's grace. When you add works to that, it puts you far from that saving grace. You can't help God save you.
- C. **Works of Man Insufficient to Save**
 - 1. **Works of the Law (Galatians 2:16)** cannot justify you.
 - 2. **Works of Righteousness (Titus 3:5)** cannot save you. God saves you by His mercy and grace (Eph 2:8-9).
- D. **Another Gospel Hides the True Gospel**
 - 1. **Faith in works denies the work of Christ (Romans 4:4-5).** If you trust your works, you'll be judged by them instead of the finished work of Jesus Christ on your behalf.