

# THE HEART OF A GOD'S MESSAGE

## GALATIANS 1:6-9

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<sup>1:6</sup> I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

<sup>7</sup> Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

<sup>9</sup> As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (KJV)

As you read the very opening words of Paul's letter to the church at Galatia, Paul points out a sobering reality that this first church faced, and that all churches potentially face. It is totally possible to be saved by the grace of God, through the love of God, by the wonderful gift of God through Christ Jesus and to be led astray by "false, deceptive, crafty teachers". Such was the very case in the early church. They had been saved, and heard the wonderful news that "Christ gave himself for our sins". Yet, because of a failure to guard their doctrine, they were being taught erroneous false teaching. It is totally possible for false teachers to worm their way into the church, and to secretly lead people back to a life of "legalism" resulting in bondage.

**1. THE REALITY....THE GOSPEL HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN.** There is "one" sobering truth that Paul had delivered unto the saints at Galatia, namely that Christ has died for their sins that they could have life eternally through believing in Him. When a person "truly believes" in Jesus Christ as payment for their sins, God credits their faith, and He looks on that person as being "sinless" and "perfect". God sees that person "in Christ" and they are moved from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of light. God saves us out of His abundant, overflowing "grace". "Grace" is what God the Father loves to give to "all mankind". Why? Because of His overflowing love. Unlike mankind, God's love knows no bounds, or limits. The message of the "gospel" is that we cannot earn our way into heaven, we cannot achieve our way into a right relationship with God. It only comes by "His grace". *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* We are "justified", meaning that God credits our faith in Christ, and looks upon us as righteous. Through Christ, and faith in Christ, we are "counted righteous" before Holy God. Paul wanted these Jewish believers to know that "no act or action" made them right with God. Keeping the Ten Commandments does not make a person right with God. Circumcision does not make a person right with God. Being right with God comes only through the blood of Christ. All of salvation begins and ends with Holy God who loves mankind beyond his wildest dreams or imagination.

**2. THE RAPID TURN AWAY....A TURNING TO A FALSE GOSPEL.** The very first words in v. 6 in the Living Bible are, "I am amazed". In the midst of all that they had heard and witnessed from the preaching of Paul through the power of God, there is this sobering reality... "they were soon turned away" from the living, loving, eternal God that had saved them. The very purpose of Paul's letter to the church at Galatia was to declare to them "the truth about grace". As a result of their "turning away" from the true gospel, through deception by adding and taking away from the Word of God, they were "following another gospel" that was really not a gospel at all. At least three things were happening to these precious saints because of "false teaching" and "erroneous belief.

**First, they were deserting God.** They were in the process of turning away from God's precious truth, to another false gospel. These saints were not turning from "a set of beliefs or principles" but from the Living God Himself. It was for this very reason that Paul yearned for their lives. The reality of their "quick" desertion is a sobering reminder as to how quickly people can be led away from God. When a person is not in the Word, in a local Bible believing church where God's truth is taught, it is totally possible to be led astray through "charismatic preaching", and those who have "impressive abilities". Paul was both astonished and "marveled" at how quickly they were removed from being grounded in the grace of Christ. There is a sobering reality in the lives of all saints that must be guarded...both our lives and our doctrines. The reality through the centuries reveals that many "good" people have turned away from the truth to lies. While no true believer can lose his or her salvation, it is totally possible to fall from understanding grace.

**Second, the believers were turning to another gospel.** The word "another" literally means a different kind of gospel. When a person preaches a "different gospel", then they are preaching: a different Jesus, a different grace, a different way to be saved, a different God. Yet, Scripture declares that there is not another gospel...Jesus declares,

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”. When a person turns away from the “gospel of grace”, they turn to “legalism”, “ritual” and “form”, which always leads to bondage. The “false teachers” that had wormed their way in to these saints were leading them away from the gospel of peace, and the end result would bring on bondage. Sadly, the same thing happens today as well. A believer moves from “the grace gospel”, to “performance based gospel”. Performance based “gospel” declare something like this, “God loves you if you....”, “God loves you when you...” “God loves you more when you...and less when you...”. The reality is this, such is not the truth of Scripture, the God of Scripture can never love a person one ounce more or less...for the love of God is constant.

**Third, the believers were following those who twisted the gospel of Christ.** The gospel was being completely distorted. False teachers were teaching: 1) God does love the world but he loves the “religionist” more. This however is a declaration of “favoritism...and God shows no favorites. 2) Jesus Christ did come to earth, but not to secure a perfect righteousness for man, but to show man how to live, and through living a “good life a person can go to heaven. 3) That Jesus did die for man, but He didn’t die for man’s sins, only that man should be willing to die for God’s causes. 4) Jesus death is not sufficient...more is needed to be right with God...such as circumcision, keeping the law. The point is sobering, that false teachers can and do alter the message of God for personal means and gains. False teachers were affecting believers to the point of troubling them, confusing them, and they were not only turned away from the very gospel but turned away from God. False teaching through Satan can look so close to the original that believers must always be on guard.

**3. THE RUIN OF FALSE TEACHERS....ACCURSED BY GOD.** The leading away of the people of God in Galatia was not an accidental matter, but one that was done deliberately, intentionally, purposely, by those that were gifted, charismatic, influential...yet false in their believing and preaching. To pervert the gospel is the most serious offense in the world...for it is claiming another way of salvation, and relationship with God other than what God Almighty has declared. Without the gospel, no person can be saved, or brought to a relationship with God through Christ.

**First, let God’s curse fall on anyone that preaches not the gospel.** Paul made it abundantly clear that if “he”, “an angel” or “anyone” preach to these precious people a gospel other than the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be “accursed”. Paul’s bold and powerful point was this...they were to receive no one, hear no one that preached any other gospel other than the pure gospel of God through Christ...that Christ is our sin offering, the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and took our sins upon himself, and giving to all who believe, the righteousness of God through faith. They were not to allow a person access to their minds, and hearts. The same truth holds for all time. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ must take seriously all who preach and teach the gospel. No person has a right to the heart of God’s people that does not preach the “truth of God’s Word...the true gospel”.

**Second, the gospel is greater than the angels of heaven.** Paul made it clear that these saints were not to believe another gospel, if an angel delivered it from heaven. The point is sobering, God’s gospel is greater than the angels of heaven.

**Third, the gospel is greater than any man. God will never change His gospel.** It is settled and established for eternity. There will be no changing the gospel of God. However, if a man did come preaching another gospel, the very words of Paul, is that man is to be “accursed”, meaning “excommunicated”. The church can never tolerate false teachers. If a false teacher comes into a fellowship...that fellowship must pull away from that man, and “ban” that person from speaking, that is declaration of Paul.

**Fourth, there is a sobering fate awaiting all preachers who preach a false gospel.** All false preachers will suffer a “double curse”. The very word for “anathema” means doomed to destruction, and given over to eternal punishment. The very idea is that of eternal death. The reality is this, false teachers, are doing the very work of Satan in the name of God, and leading many lives astray, and into eternal torment and doom. God makes it clear in His Word that “Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” (Mt. 7:19). Any preacher that points to performance, works, deeds, acts, and not to the grace of God is in serious danger. For it is only by the grace of God that a person is saved, and it is only by the grace of God that we “stay saved”.

It is important to notice that God will show no mercy, to those who deliberately extort the truth of God’s Holy Word, and make it out to mean something totally different. In the day in which we live, there are many that are using the gospel for personal gain, financial wealth, while leading masses of individuals astray.