

The Danger of Deserting the Gospel

Galatians 1:6 - 10

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Deserting the Gospel Galatians 1:6

- > Paul's Astonishment
- > "Quickly Deserting" Echoes the OT
- > Desertion Means "Switching Sides"
- > Having been Called by Grace
- > Another Gospel is no Gospel

Agitated by an Altered Gospel Galatians 1:7

- > There is only one gospel
- > To tamper with the gospel is to destroy it
- > Beware those who offer higher status
- > It is easy to convince Christians that they lack something

**The Missionary is NOT the Message!
Galatians 1:8-9**

- A false gospel from an apparently “good” source is still false and damning
- The gospel itself is the ultimate criterion for sound doctrine
- Beware those who offer higher status
- Many “nice” people teach wicked doctrines

Paul immediately rebukes the Galatians

Galatians 1:6 (NASB)

“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel”

- “Amazed” means “shocked” or “astonished”
- “Quickly” (*tacheo_s*) is an allusion to Exodus 32:8
- ▶ “Quickly” also alludes to Judges 2:17

Called by Grace!

Galatians 1:6 (NASB)

“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel”

- “Called” here means “effectively” i.e. the inner call
- God uses the preaching of the gospel to “call” lost sinners out of darkness and into His light!
- ▶ A “different gospel” cannot save!

Some agitators distort the gospel

Galatians 1:7

“which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.”

- To distort the gospel always harms the church
- “Agitators” stir up trouble by suggesting that what we have is inadequate
- “distort” means “to reverse” see Deuteronomy 23:5 (23:6 LXX).

Anathema on a wrong gospel from a “good” source

Galatians 1:8 (NRSV)

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed!”

- The Missionary is NOT the message!
- Paul includes himself in this
- An angel from heaven would be considered an impeccable source

There is a real crisis in Galatia

Galatians:1:9 (NRSV)

“As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed!”

- Verse 8 uses the subjunctive mood (unlikely but theoretically possible)
- Verse 9 uses the indicative mood--a real situation facing the churches in southern Galatia
- Accursed is literally *anathema*

The true gospel does not please men

Galatians:1:10

“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.”

- > Paul is not a Greek rhetorician
- > The true gospel flatters no one!

Implications and Applications

- > We must not let our tendency to be discontented draw us away from the gospel
- > We need to distinguish between the universal call and the effectual call
- > Clear teaching, received by faith, sanctifies us
- > There is only one gospel

Our tendency to be discontented must not draw us away from the gospel

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (HCSB)

But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a complete and pure devotion to Christ. For if a person comes and preaches another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you had not received, or a different gospel, which you had not accepted, you put up with it splendidly!

We need to distinguish between the universal call and the effectual call

Mark 1:14b, 15

“Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’”

We need to distinguish between the universal call and the effectual call

1Corinthians 1:22-24

“For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

Clear teaching, received by faith, sanctifies us

John 17:17

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

Galatians 3:3

“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

There is only one gospel

1Corinthians 15:9-11

“For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

There is only one gospel

Philippians 1:27

“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”

Grace and Peace

“May Yahweh bless you and protect you; may Yahweh make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; may Yahweh look with favor on you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26
