

Sermon Review Galatians 1:6-10 The Danger of Deserting The Gospel

Gal. 1:6-7 NASB *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*

1. Paul was appalled (amazed) that the Galatians were so quickly deserting God's gospel for another false gospel. According to Gal. 3:3-5; 4:9-11; 5:11-12 what was the nature of this false gospel?

2. Paul almost certainly alluded to Exodus 32:8 when he accused the Galatians of "so quickly deserting Him who called you." Look up Exodus 32:8 and see the connection for yourself.
 - How was the idolatry of the Galatians the same as that of the Israelites?

 - Comment also about the irony of the Galatians wanting to return to the Mosaic Law which Paul regarded as idolatry now that Christ had come (cf. Rom. 10:4; Gal. 3:24-26).

3. The gospel (good news) centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Connected as part and parcel with the gospel is the means by which Christ's work is applied to our account.
 - Look up the following passages that center on the person and work of Christ as the center of God's promises (gospel):

PERSON – Gen. 3:15; 15:18; 22:18; 49:10; Num. 24:17-18;
2 Samuel 7:16-17; Isaiah 11:1, 10; Matt. 1:1; Acts 13:23; Gal. 3:16

WORK – Gen. 3:15; Pss. 16:10; 22:16; 110:1-4; Is. 53:1-12;
Daniel 9:24-27 Zech. 3:9; Mk. 10:45; Rom. 3:24-25; 4:25; 2 Cor. 5:21

▪ Look up the following passages for the way in which Christ's work is applied to us:
BY FAITH – Gen. 15:6; 2 Ki. 18:5; 1 Ch. 5:20; Pss. 13:5; 22:4; Hab. 2:4; Rom. 4:1-5, 13;
Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 3:7; Heb. 11:6.

4. Paul mentions in Galatians 1:6 that the Galatian Christians were “**called**...by the grace of Christ...” Theologians refer to this calling as the *effectual* call. The *effectual* call differs from the *universal* call in that God actually regenerates and brings to saving faith those individuals upon whom He bestows His effectual call. The universal call is the proclamation that goes out to every man, woman, and child, but it is only those whom God pours His effectual call upon that actually respond by faith to the universal call.
 - Look up the following passages that demonstrate the universal call: Isaiah 28:16; Mark 1:15; John 3:16; Acts 2:21

 - Look up the following passages that demonstrate the effectual call: Matt. 13:11; Acts 13:48; Rom. 8:29-30; 1 Cor. 1:22-24

5. Bob commented in his sermon on how the term “distort” was a reference back to God *reversing* Balaam’s intended curse into a *blessing* upon God’s people. How would the Galatians returning to the Mosaic Law be a reversing of God’s blessing back to a curse?

Galatians 1:8-10 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! 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.

6. It is very likely that the same kind of “higher spirituality” found at Colossae was also a problem that the Galatians faced. This may be why Paul warned against angels preaching a different gospel. Look up Col. 2:18 to see the connection. What sources do people receive false gospels from today?

7. Look up 2 Cor. 11:3-4. In what ways does Paul claim that the gospel can be distorted? Look back to statement 3 in this study. Write down ways in which false religions and cults distort the person and work of Jesus Christ and the access to His salvation by faith alone.

8. Many of us have heard the saying “I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day.” How did Paul demonstrate through what he wrote that he believed the message (gospel) was not the messenger?

9. Paul anathematizes anyone who preaches a different gospel. According to the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) the Israelites labeled the Canaanites' cities that God destroyed an "anathema" or "utterly destroyed" (Numbers 21:3).
 - Look up Deuteronomy 13:16 and see how God called the Israelites to "utterly destroy" by the sword the inhabitants and all the possessions of any city that went into idolatry. The term used in Deut. 13:16 for "utterly destroy" in the LXX (Septuagint) is *anathema*. This shows the serious nature with which God views those who lead others astray.
 - Understanding that "little ones" is a title for Christians with no status, how does Jesus in Luke 17:2 make the same point that Paul does here in Galatians?

10. Paul claimed that it was obvious that he was not trying to please men because he preached the gospel. Why is the gospel offensive to unbelievers (cf. John 3:19; 1 Cor. 1:22-23; 2 Cor. 4:4)?