

## **I- Departure from the Pure Gospel Galatians 1:6-10**

*Galatians 1:6-10 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 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. 9 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. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*

We come to the first section of the book of Galatians which I have titled "The Pure Gospel We Preach." This section will cover the first two chapters of Galatians where we will deal with the rebuke of the Galatians who were not following the pure gospel. We will also see the origin of the gospel in the session on the Development of the Gospel. The last session of this section will deal with Paul's defense of the gospel in Jerusalem and against Peter who had fallen into heresy.

### **Outline: Departure From the Pure Gospel Galatians 1:6-10**

**A- Rebuke of the Galatians Galatians 1:6**

**B- Not Another Gospel At All Galatians 1:7**

**C- Warning to False Preachers Galatians 1:8-9 a**

**D- The Gospel We Preach Galatians 1:9 b**

**E- Stay True to God Not Man Galatians 1:10**

### **A- Rebuke of the Galatians Galatians 1:6**

Paul is amazed, shocked and deeply troubled that the Galatians had believed the false gospel of the Judaizers. What did the Judaizers teach that the Galatians believed? Who were they? "There were Jews who would not receive the simple message of grace and who tried to mix law and grace, the kingdom message and the church message. We call these people 'Judaizers', since their aim was to entice Gentile believers into the Jewish system. They taught that a person is saved by faith plus keeping the law, and that the believer is sanctified and enabled to live a holy life by faith plus keeping the law." 7

The Judaizers added to the message of grace with the bondage of works. "The Judaizers did not deny the facts of the gospel- that Jesus died and rose again. What they denied was that it was adequate." 8

The reason that the Judaizer's message was received is that man is still in denial about his need of a Savior. We respond to legalism, which is simply adding works to the grace of God for salvation, because we feel that we only need a helper not a Savior. Speaking of legalism J.V. McGee says, "This is one of the oldest heresies known, and it is still with us today. It is adding something to the gospel of grace; it is doing something rather than simply believing something. It is faith plus something rather than faith plus nothing. Every cult and 'ism' has something for you to do in order to be saved." 9

Another thing Paul find hard to believe and swallow is that they deserted him and the pure gospel of grace so quick. The word translated "Soon removed" is *metatithes* in the Greek and is translated in the NIV as "deserting" It carries the meaning of a deserter in the military or a turncoat. They had quickly turned and believed the false gospel seemingly almost as soon as

Paul had departed. This is a strong rebuke from what must have been a broken hearted Apostle Paul.

### **B- Not Another Gospel At All Galatians 1:7**

The Judaizers had, "perverted" the pure gospel by bringing in these works of legalism. I remind us that gospel means good news and they had taken the good news and made it the same old news of bondage. When we attempt to change the pure gospel of grace we make it the very opposite of what it is. We make it of none effect.

### **C- Warning to False Preachers Galatians 1:8-9 a**

In these verses Paul has a strong warning for those who would pervert the pure gospel. "Let him be accursed" is very strong language because someone who is accursed is, "a person or thing set apart and devoted to destruction," 10 Paul says though we, meaning both himself and any man, or an angel does this they are to be accursed.

God's word is full of warning about changing the words of God. Deu\_4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it..." Deu\_12:32 "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it." Pro\_30:6 "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." And probably the strongest warning about distorting and perverting the word of God is found in Rev\_22:19 "And If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." I believe that any time man adds to God's word it destroys the purity of it and God is displeased.

### **D- The Gospel We Preach Galatians 1:9 b**

We now turn our attention to the gospel we preach and the message of it. Paul says to them by implication that they were to preach the gospel "that ye have received..." We need to understand the gospel that Paul taught. 1Co\_15:1-4 gives us the gospel. "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received...For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scripture; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures..." My friend the Gospel message is the message of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Warren Wiersbe says:

Keep in mind that there are many 'gospels' (messages of good news) in the Bible, but only one Gospel of the Grace of God as Paul preached. Abraham believed 'the gospel' (3:8), the 'good news' that thought his seed all the nations would be blessed. In every age, men have been saved by believing whatever promise God revealed to them. Noah believed God's Word about a flood and the ark; Abraham believed God's Word about his promised seed; today we believe God's Word about His Son's death and resurrection. Since the advent of Paul and the truth of justification by faith, there is no other gospel." 11

### **E- Stay True to God Not Man Galatians 1:10**

The lesson we must learn from the departure from the pure gospel that the Galatians did is to not follow suit and do the same. There is a lot of pressures to conform to the world and to get away from what is called a blood slaughter religion by some and to buy into the humanistic thoughts of today that I'm all right and you're all right and that we do not need a Savior.

There are also many who do not hold to the pure gospel of grace alone for salvation and try to bring us under the law. Some teach dietary restrictions, some teach certain days must be observed. Others will try to say certain church affiliations are necessary to gain salvation. They do this through not only pressure but education of the ignorant who are not grounded in the pure gospel.

Beloved, may I say that popular opinion does not make a lie the truth nor the truth a lie. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation and we must remain true to it.

Act\_5:29 records a good example of what staying true to God and not man meant in the early times of the church. The apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish rulers of the day, and were commanded to not teach in Jesus name and Peter replied, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

We might ask why is the pure gospel worth fighting for. My friends a perverted gospel is destructive because the eternal fate of men and women hangs in the balance and is determined by what they believe and accept. Their eternal souls and destiny are secure only in the hope of the gospel of grace. We must stand for the truth!