

Sunday, October 18, 2009—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and Law—Galatians 1:6-9

Galatians 1:6

- *“I marvel”*—is an expression that means to cause wonder, astonishment, or intense surprise.
- Paul says that he is astonished at how soon the Galatians were removed from him and the gospel that he preached.
- *“so soon removed”*—the prevision of the gospel in the churches of Galatia happened quickly. Paul had not been gone very long before they began to depart the faith.
- Acts 14:21-25—we have already seen in previous studies how Paul preached his gospel and established churches in the region of Galatia.
- According to Galatians 1:6 very soon after Paul left people followed Paul into the region and began to preach a message that included law keeping and religious works for salvation.
- Acts 15:1-5—the Judizars were teaching that faith alone was not enough to save the gentiles. They referred their converts back to the Law of Moses and told them that keeping the Law was necessary for salvation.
- *“removed from him that called you into the Grace of Christ”*—who called the Galatians into the grace of Christ? Paul
- Paul is upset with the Galatians for essentially two reasons:
 - They had departed from the grace of Christ.
 - They had removed themselves from Paul’s ministry.
- Therefore, removing oneself from Pauline authority is synonymous with being removed from the grace of Christ. The reason Paul could talk like this is because the gospel that had been committed to him was the gospel of the Grace of God.

What Was Paul’s Gospel

- Acts 20:24—Paul preached a gospel that fundamentally had something to do with the grace of God.
- Remember that the term gospel is generic term meaning good news. The specific good news that is being referred to is determined in the context.
- Romans 3:24, 28—Paul teaches today that men are justified freely (that is totally apart from human effort) by grace and not by the works of the law and human performance.
- Ephesians 2:8-9—once again we are saved by grace through faith, which is the only way salvation, can be considered a free gift.

- Titus 3:5
- Romans 11:6—works and grace are mutually exclusive. As soon as you add works of any kind you have frustrated the grace of God.
- Galatians 1:6—the Judaizers had come and confused the issue of justification by grace through faith without works by telling the Galatians they needed to be circumcised and follow the Law of Moses to be saved.
- *“unto another gospel”*—I now know something about what Paul considered another gospel, anything that diminished from the grace of God by adding works.

Galatians 1:7

- *“Which is not another”*—according to Paul, any message which includes human performance of any kind is not the gospel.
- *“but there be some that trouble you”*—these Judaizers were troubling the Galatians. They were stirring them up and agitating them by causing them to be confused. They were troubling them through the preaching of a perverted gospel.
- *“pervert the gospel of Christ”*—the word pervert means to corrupt. The English word pervert means to turn aside from what is good, true, or morally right.
- Can you think of one positive connotation associated with the word pervert?
- In the context of the passage, a perversion of the gospel is anything that adds religious works to grace.
- There are three basic ways people pervert the gospel of Christ.
 - Work to Get Saved
 - Matthew 19:16-17—Christ tells the rich young ruler that he needs to keep the commandments if he wants to enter into life.
 - Romans 3:28--Paul says that we conclude a man is not justified by the keeping of the law.
 - Work to Stay Saved
 - Matthew 24:13—one needs to continually work and endure to the end in order to maintain salvation.
 - Colossians 2:6—Paul says that we need to continue live the Christian life on the basis of grace through faith.
 - Work to Prove You Are Saved

- Matthew 7:20—this versed is used to promote the idea that your work and fruits will be good if you are truly saved. If you are not saved than your fruit will be bad.
- Ephesians 2:10—the only reason we are even capable of producing anything good is because we already have Christ in us.

Galatians 1:8-9

- We are going to take verses 8 and 9 together because they are so similar to each other.
- *“Though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you.”*
- Paul tells the Galatians that if he himself or any angel from heaven preaches any other gospel than the one Paul preached to them initially, they should not listen to that preacher.
- *“let him be accursed.”*
- Paul pulls not punches; those who pervert the gospel of Christ by adding human effort are cursed. Paul even says that if he changes his message he is guilty of doing the same thing and would be cursed as well.
- Accursed--a thing devoted to God without hope of being redeemed, and if an animal, to be slain; therefore a person or thing doomed to destruction
 - a curse
 - a man accursed, devoted to the direst of woes
 - I Corinthians 12:3
- I Corinthians 16:22—the word anathema comes from the same Greek word translated accursed in the other verses.
- Anathema—according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* carries the following meanings.
 - Excommunication with curses. Hence, a curse or denunciation by ecclesiastical authority, accompanying excommunication. This species of excommunication was practiced in the ancient churches, against notorious offenders; all churches were warned not to receive them; all magistrates and private persons were admonished not to harbor or maintain them, and priests were enjoined not to converse with them, or attend their funeral.
 - There are two kinds of anathemas, judiciary and abjulatory. The former is pronounced by a council, pope or bishop; the latter is the act of a convert who anathematizes the heresy which he abjures.

- Accursed—according to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* carries the following four meanings.
 - Doomed to destruction or misery
 - Separated from the faithful; cast out of the church; excommunicated.
 - Worthy of the curse; detestable; execrable
 - Wicked; malignant in the extreme.
- In the Greek this is in the imperative mood, i.e. a command. Paul is literally saying that those who preach another gospel should be doomed to an accursed position. According, to J. Vernon McGee this expression literally means let him be damned.
- Revelation 14:6-7—an angel does preach another gospel in the word of God and he is not accursed.
- If you still have questions about the necessity of right division you need to take note of these passages. An angel does preach another gospel in Revelation 14 and is not accursed for doing so.
- I Corinthians 9:17—this angel is plainly preaching to another group in another dispensation. There is more than one gospel in the word of God, however, only applies directly to us during this Dispensation of Grace, the gospel of the Grace of God.