

## What's Wrong With The Gospel

### Galatians 1:6-9 NIV - No Other Gospel - Only One Gospel

<sup>6</sup>I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup>which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! <sup>9</sup>As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

### Romans 1:16-17 NIV – The Just Live by Faith

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. <sup>17</sup>For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ***“The righteous will live by faith.”***

- Obviously, ***nothing is wrong with the Gospel*** of the Bible - what the Apostles devoted their lives to.
- But what about ***the “gospel”*** that is being preached in most churches and Christian literature today?
- ***Do they really preach the same message*** - the whole message - about **Bible salvation**?
- ***How do they answer the question*** that people are still asking the Church, ***“Men and brethren, what shall we do (to be saved)?”***
- Do they answer as the Apostles answered, or do they deviate from it?

The word “gospel” is from the Anglo-Saxon word ***“godspel,”***  
***Meaning “god-message” or “good story.”***

- We use the transliterated term ***“good news”*** in place of the **Greek word “euaggelion,”** and usually think of it as meaning ONLY the good tidings themselves.
- However, in the **Greek language** the word ***“euaggelion”*** actually signifies ***“a present given to one who brought good tidings,”*** or ***“a sacrifice offered in thanksgiving for such good tidings having come.”***

Therefore, the “gospel” signifies **NOT ONLY** the message of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (the “good news”) **BUT ALSO** our response in “thanksgiving for such good tidings having come” – (obeying the plan of salvation).

Paul called this “**MY GOSPEL**” Romans 2:16 NIV - <sup>16</sup>This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

**God revealed to him** that the full doctrinal content of the Gospel

- Embodied not only our **relationship on the basis of grace**
- But also our **responsibilities on the basis of gratitude**.
- This is why most of his epistles are divided between doctrinal and practical teaching. **This is the REAL gospel!**

Therefore, you are **NOT** preaching Paul’s gospel if you preach “**only believe!**” Furthermore, you are not preaching Paul’s gospel if you preach “**repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit ... and stop!**”

The gospel of the New Testament **BEGINS** with the working of God’s grace in SALVATION, but **MUST CONTINUE** with the working of God’s grace in **SANCTIFICATION**, or it is **NOT COMPLETE**.

The gospel is not the gospel if you take away from it or add to it

- It will not work if you do that!
- Paul says, “***If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be cursed.***”
- “***anathema***” - something or someone that one vehemently dislikes or
- “***devoted to destruction***”.
- **This applies to** those that mix God’s message with men’s ideas, creating a “***perverted gospel.***”
- The Judaizers of Paul’s day **did not deny Christ**; they **merely changed the plan of salvation** preached by his Apostles. **Many today do the same!**
- **Jesus Christ would be angered by most “gospel” messages that are being preached today, mainly because they lack nearly all the major points that He and the Apostles preached on!**

## **WHAT HAS BEEN CHANGED?**

### **\*\*THE BLOOD OF JESUS**

- It's a fact that strong preaching of the blood of Jesus scares people;
- it's also a fact that His blood scares the devil,
- because it is the only cleansing agent for man's soul.
- A bloodless gospel will not save anyone.
- Remove the blood and you remove the power!

**\*\*THE CROSS OF JESUS** - Today we preach "*Jesus Christ and what He can do for you*" instead of "*Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*"

- A me-centered gospel is the enemy of a Christ-centered gospel.
- Anyone preaching self-denial as a condition of discipleship is called "*legalistic*" - but Jesus did!
- The sinner is not the center of God's plan - **Jesus is!**
- He never lowered the requirements for anyone.

**"The cross is the most revolutionary thing ever to appear among men.**

- The cross of Roman times **knew no compromise**, it never made concessions.
- It won all its arguments **by killing its opponent** and silencing him for good.
- It spared not Christ, but slew Him the same as the rest.
- He was **alive** when they hung Him on that cross, and **completely dead** when they took Him off of it.
- That was the cross the first time it appeared in Christian history.

With perfect knowledge of all this, **Christ said, 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.'**

- So the cross not only brought Christ's life to an end
- It also ends the first life, the old life of every one of His true followers ... this and nothing less is true Christianity.

**We must do something about the cross, and there's only one of two things we can do - flee it or die upon it!"**

**\*\*\*THE TERROR OF HELL.** We have decided to **help God out** because we understand our generation better than He does!

They need a more gentle, loving message than what *He preached*.

- We talk about Heaven and the rewards of salvation
- But neglect the other side of the gospel's "**two-edged sword**."

What right do we have to omit hell from preaching when *Jesus gave emphasis to it?*

**\*\*\*THE LAW OF GOD.** When the rich young ruler came to Jesus, he asked a very direct question: "*Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*"

Can you imagine what today's preachers would answer him?

- "Admit you're a sinner, accept Jesus as your personal Savior, etc..
- But **what was Jesus' answer?**
- "***You know the commandments ... keep the commandments.***" (Mark 10:19, Matthew 19:17) **THE COMMANDMENTS?!**
- Didn't Jesus do away with the law?

Jesus wasn't preaching the commandments to him as the way of salvation,

- He was using the commandments to specifically convict him of his particular sin (***which was greed***).
- ***Jesus knew how to "flush him out" - by preaching the Law of God.***

That's exactly what the Law is for:

***Romans 3:20 "For through the Law comes the knowledge of sin"***

- The Law must be preached, not as the way of salvation, but as a searchlight on the sinner's heart so they can see how bad they really are.

***Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."***

There are **no "dos and don'ts"** in today's preaching because we don't want to scare the "liberated generation" away.

- If we condemned fornication, abortion or any other specific sin, ***people might feel condemned***.

But that's the point - Jesus preached the Law so the rich young ruler would feel condemned enough to feel his need of a Savior.

The modern gospel dwells on *“all the good things God will do for you if you just accept Him”* in place of conviction.

But only by the preaching of the Law can a person desire to be saved from sin.

**Romans 7:7** *“I had not know sin, but by the Law.”*

**\*\*\*THE FEAR OF GOD.** Jesus is pictured today as so loving and so forgiving that He wouldn't hurt a fly.

But what happened to,

**Hebrews 10:31** *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”*

**Proverbs 9:10** *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”*

Modern preaching emphasizes only God's kindness, but ignores the balance presented in God's Word.

**Romans 11:22** *“Behold then the kindness and severity of God.”*

**\*\*\*GOD'S BROKEN HEART OVER SIN.**

- God saw every person who was raped, murdered, abused today.
- He saw every pornographic film and every filthy act.
- How can anyone believe that He sees this and does not grieve?
- But the church has created a carefree and cheerful God in their modern gospel.
- They don't want a God who is grieved with sin, because then He would be grieved with them!

**\*\*\*REPENTANCE - Conversion cannot happen without real repentance!**

Jesus said, Luke 13:3 *“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*

- His teachings and those of the Apostles are full of commands to repent.
- Repentance is not just “being sorry” - that is only conviction.
- Repentance is not merely a change of heart and mind - it is a change of ACTION!
- We must turn from sin to be saved! But repentance is impossible where the Law does not convict the sinner of his wickedness.

**\*\*\*BAPTISM.** Paul taught that baptism is **New Testament circumcision.**

**In the Old Testament,** a male was not in Covenant relationship with God until he was circumcised. Everyone not so circumcised was to be **“cut off from his people”** as having **“broken My covenant.”** (Genesis 17:14)

**In the New Testament,** we’re **called into Covenant with God** when we are baptized in Jesus’ name.

### **Colossians 2:9-15 NIV**

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

<sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self-ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having  canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**\*\*\*RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT.** *Jesus was crucified and buried by man*, but rose from the dead **by His own power**.

- **We fulfil His death and burial by repenting and being baptized**; these are acts of men.
- **God does His part (“resurrection”)** by filling us with the Holy Spirit after we have done our part.

**\*\*\*THE NECESSITY OF HOLINESS.** Possibly the greatest insult to the gospel today is the almost total neglect of the preaching of holiness for the Christian.

**Because people are not being convicted by the Law of God and driven to the cross,**

- We then have to invent doctrines to explain **why** these supposed **“Christians”** still have **no desire to live for God!**

But the Bible says, 1 John 1:6 *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”*

### Hebrews 12:14 NIV - Warning and Encouragement

<sup>14</sup> Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; **without holiness no one will see the Lord.**

- If you call yourself a Christian but are still (perhaps secretly) *living in your sin*, what you need to do is to **really** repent!

**\*\*\*THE ALTAR CALL.** The only “altar call” in the Bible is the call to

### Romans 12:1 NIV - A Living Sacrifice

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, *in view of God’s mercy*, to offer your bodies **as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God**—this is your true and proper worship.

- **The altar call as we know it** was invented only about 150 years ago, first used by the American evangelist Charles Finney
- As a means of separating out those ***who wanted to talk further about salvation*** (he called the front pew ***“the anxious seat”***).
- **It was developed further**, and many early revivals would stay at the altar all night confessing their sins (some even a few days!).
- But gradually, **the altar call** became a fixed part of every meeting,
- Like all traditions - ***lost its original spirit as “coming forward”*** became more important than “repentance.”

**How many confused sinners** have left altars being told they were saved after repeating a sinner’s prayer, ***but knowing differently in their heart?***

Having someone repeat a prayer and pronouncing them “saved”

- Takes away **the conviction of the Holy Spirit** prematurely,
- Before **repentance can lead to salvation.**

**A true sinner’s prayer** will gush out of *anyone who is truly seeking God* and *tired of being enslaved to sin!* **God would rather see one true convert than an ocean full of “decisions.”**

**CLOSE: What have we done to the Gospel?**

**\*\*\*GOD'S WITNESSES.** The world around us is going to hell - not because of rock music, television, drugs, sex, alcohol or the devil himself.

**It is because of the church! We are to blame!**

- **Only we have the commission,**
- **Power and truth of God at our disposal to deliver sinners from eternal death.**

**We are taking a watered-down, distorted version of God's message which He has not promised to anoint.**

And **that is why Christianity** as a whole is failing.

The only hope for the world is in the hands of **real Christians** who will **"Let Me Show You Jesus!"**

**The Bible says, Isaiah 43:10** - "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.

- **Before me no god was formed, **nor will there be one after me****
- **Sinners have next to nothing in their lives to make an impression on them in respect to eternity.**
- If they were forced to examine the subject, ***they would be moved greatly*** –
- But ***they do not think about it*** and **never will** - - -
- **Unless God's witnesses rise up and testify!**

**PRAISE TEAM - LET ME SHOW YOU JESUS!!!**

- **But considering the way most Christians live, it seems they're testifying for the other side!**
- **Do you think the preacher can bring revival by preaching while we live the way we do?**
- **Our influence stands in the way of revival! And our "witness" exerts eternal influence!**