

Enemies of the Gospel

Galatians 6:11–13

Part One

Introduction Paul's abnormal opening.

Paul's special form of greeting.

1 Corinthians 16:21 The greeting is in my own hand—Paul.

Colossians 4:18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.

The tense Paul uses.

The penmanship Paul uses.

Consider the nature of the enemy of the gospel so that you can be a better ally of the gospel.

I. The enemies of the gospel despise grace. Galatians 6:12a

Paul is focused on grace.

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

“God’s way is the way of divine accomplishment; all other ways rely on human achievement. Those who follow the religion of divine accomplishment say, I cannot accomplish anything in my own power or goodness, and I throw myself on the mercy of God, trusting in the sufficient sacrifice of His Son on my behalf.” Those who follow the way of human achievement, no matter what its packaging might be, say, “On my own merit and in my own power I can make myself acceptable to God and worthy of a place in heaven.” John MacArthur

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Sin's corruption of man's image and ruination of man's relationship with God.

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

Romans 8:For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, **7** because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, **8** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Religion is a means of fulfilling the void created by broken relationship with God.

The problem with all false religions. Galatians 5:2–4

Why has God revealed to us His standard of righteousness if we cannot keep it?
Galatians 5:19a, 21–29

“Of all kinds of knowledge that we can ever obtain, the knowledge of God, and the knowledge of ourselves, are the most important. As religion is the great business for which we are created, and on which our happiness depends; and as religious consists of an intercourse between ourselves and our Maker; ... therefore a true knowledge of both must be needful in order to be true religion.” **Jonathan Edwards** (154)

What we think about God is important. Luke 16:14–15

What we think about ourselves is important. Luke 18:9–14
Becoming an enemy of grace is the inevitable consequence of spiritual pride.

Why is the gate into God's kingdom so narrow?