

**No OTHER GOSPEL!** [ *Sermon Notes contd.* ]

**[3] THE DESTRUCTION OUTSIDE THE GOSPEL; 1:8-9.**

**(a) SWEEPING IDENTIFICATION.**

Falsehood is to be resisted no matter who propagates it:

(i) *An Angel*: the devil is capable of transforming himself into “an angel of light” (**2 Corinthians 11:14**); his followers can adopt the same guise.

(ii) *Anyone*: measure their message against God’s Revelation.

**(b) SURE DAMNATION.**

God pronounces a crushing “anathema” on any other ‘gospel.’

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



- 15 September @ 7.00pm: *Annual Sports Night, Henry Jones Playing Fields.*
- 23 September @ 10.30am: **Morning of Prayer** for Presbytery Reformation Project in Lisburn FPC.

**MEETINGS TODAY**

- Sunday School & Bible Class – 10.15am
- Morning Worship – 11.30am: *Second Message in our Studies on the Book of Galatians*
- Evening Service – 7.00pm.

**INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE**

*“Every teacher of work-righteousness is a trouble-maker. Has it never occurred to you that the pope, cardinals, bishops, monks, and that the whole synagogue of Satan are trouble-makers?”*

[ Martin Luther, *Comments on Galatians 1:7* ].

 **martyrs**  
# 2 B U L L E T I N 2 0 1 7



**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NEW SEASON OF WORK**

Our second Week of Prayer for 2017 in Martyrs Memorial FPC was held last week, 4-8 September at 8:00pm each night.

Prior to the prayer time **a short message plus a report** on a different aspect of the outreach of our church was presented each night. These were designed, not only to act as prompts to prayer on the night, but also to fine tune our intercessions at home. Areas on which prayer was concentrated were **the children’s work** (Sunday Schools/Explore in Martyrs and Sandy Row), **Youth work** (YPF meeting and Reach meetings in Martyrs and Taughmonagh), **internet** broadcasts via Sermon Audio (and hopefully soon through Facebook Live), **the Reformation Room** and the **connections** we are trying to pursue with those who attended Martyrs in former years.



## No OTHER GOSPEL!

Text: **Galatians 1:6-9.**

The Book of Galatians comes complete with two colossal Gospel bookends:

(i) the first appears in **Galatians 1:3-5** where Paul gives a splendid definition of the message of the Cross;

(ii) then as he brings his writing to a close in **Galatians 6:14** he directs us to the Cross once again. God's grace is all his glory.

**Galatians 1:1-5** have been described as 'the overture' to this epistle – or, in the words of Bengel, it is in these opening statements that, *“the seeds of his treatise are being sown.”*

This letter to the **Galatians** revolves around:

- (1) CLARIFICATION – what the Gospel is and how it applies to our lives,
- (2) CHALLENGE – in 'father mode' Paul admonishes those whom he loves as soon as they abandon the message,
- (3) COMBAT – the apostle attacks the false teachers who have infiltrated and corrupted the churches of Galatia.

### [1] THE DEPARTURE FROM THE GOSPEL; 1:6.

#### (a) AMAZEMENT ABOUT THIS DEPARTURE, v6a.

It was not the existence of the false teachers that astonished the apostle (in **Acts 20** he warned that they would appear), rather he was *“bewildered”* that the church had followed them.

#### (b) ACCELERANT IN THIS DEPARTURE, v6a.

This defection had happened with remarkable speed (the Greek word “so soon” also indicates *“easily and readily”*).

In Luther's *Lectures on Galatians* (1535 edition), he warns that what Paul witnessed in Galatia could happen in Wittenberg: *“Some fanatic could stop this blessed progress of the Gospel in a hurry, and in one moment he could overturn everything that we*

*have built up with the hard work of many years.”*

The clear lesson is that Christian churches – and individuals – must constantly remain on guard against the devil's attacks (**Mark 14:38**). Complacency opens the door to corruption.

#### (c) ABANDONMENT DUE TO THIS DEPARTURE, v1b.

The church was not deserting a mere principle, but a Person – Christ Jesus. “Removed” is a term for military desertion; the form of the verb used indicates that this act was voluntary.

### [2] THE DECEPTION ABOUT THE GOSPEL; 1:7.

#### (a) DIFFERENCE.

The false teachers (Judaisers) claimed to be preaching a legitimate form of the Gospel; Paul counters that they were promoting “another / *different* Gospel” – and then drives home his point that **there only is ONE Gospel** (cf. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 1:16-17; 3:25; 5:9**, etc.).

A different Gospel that centres on a different Jesus is not a rare occurrence (cf. **2 Corinthians 11:3-4**): some popular examples are found in the RC Church, Watchtower devotees, Mormons ... .

Men turn from the one true Gospel for a variety of reasons:

- (i) Their *Intellect* – what they cannot figure out they throw out;
- (ii) Their *Inclinations* – everything is made to fit their emotions;
- (iii) Their *Iniquities* – the *real* reason why people turn from God's way is the rebellion of sin.

#### (b) DANGER.

The chief danger is posed by the ‘poisoners’ within the church.

#### (c) DISTURBANCE.

The effect of this false teaching on the church was “trouble” – the word means *“to agitate and stir up,”* resulting in an unsettled mind. This term is used to describe Herod (**Matthew 2:3**), the disciples (**Matthew 14:26**) and us (**John 14:1**).

Man's theories confuse the mind; it is only the true Gospel that converts the soul.

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