

Galatians 1:6–10

<sup>6</sup> I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

<sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

<sup>10</sup> For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

### ***The Gospel or No Gospel*** **Galatians 1:6-10**

INTRO:

Several years ago, a Gentile friend began attending a Jewish fellowship which embraced the Lord Jesus as the Messiah. He told me he was going to get circumcised so he could be closer to God. How would you respond to this? **Galatians 5:2-3** came rushing to my mind. ***“Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the law.”*** In one sense, people like my friend are why Paul wrote Galatians.

***I. Paul’s Astonishment (v. 6-7)***

***II. Danger, Danger, Danger (v. 8-10)***

***I. Paul’s Astonishment (v. 6-7)***

**Galatians 1:6–7** ***“I [am astonished] that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.”***

A. Paul opened the body of his letter with a strong word. ***“I am astounded, amazed, shocked, that you have departed from Him who called you.”*** The first reality Paul

asserted was personal. Leaving the one Gospel was leaving God Himself. They rejected God and embraced another set of dogma.

B. The phrase says the so-called Gospel is not a Gospel of the same type. You are accepting a completely different type. Paul immediately realized we may not get the point so he makes the point forcefully. You embraced ***“a different gospel, which is not another.”*** In other words, it is not a Gospel at all. This word translated another is another of the same kind. The question is not whether they are embracing either a true Gospel or a false Gospel. Are you believing the Gospel or something that is not a Gospel at all?

C. What is the Gospel? Paul’s Gospel is described in **1 Corinthians 15:1-4.**

***“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved . . . For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”***

The Gospel is a message of grace available through Christ alone. The Gospel is that God the Father sent His Son into the world to become a man and die for our sin. He was buried and rose on the third day as promised in the Bible. It contains no part of keeping the *Law of Moses* or adding any other thing. The Gospel requires nothing other than our response of taking Christ by faith. We know from **Chapter 2** that some people came to insist that Jews and Gentiles be separate and they lost the reality that justification (salvation) is by faith alone **Galatians 2:15–16.**

***“We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, [in order] that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”***

## ***II. Danger, Danger, Danger (v. 8-10)***

**Galatians 1:8-10** ***“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”***

A. Paul was astonished that some of the Galatians are very confused by the false teachers who came to trouble them and have tolerated a *“non-gospel.”* To get them to see how dangerous this is, the Apostle Paul employed the strongest language he ever used in his epistles.

***“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed”***

The phrase, ***“let him be accursed”*** is a command. If even an angel from heaven, or even Paul himself uttered a gospel that differed from what he proclaimed to them, that angel or Paul would be under God’s divine condemnation.

B. Anathema is the transliteration of the actual Greek word. We make it softer than it actually is. We get a sense of its flavor in Paul’s great statement of compassion for lost Israelites.

**Romans 9:3** ***“For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh.”***

Paul was willing to go to hell if it meant his people could be saved. To be anathema means to be condemned by God.

C. To underline how serious it is to play with the Gospel to make it fit another system of thinking or doctrine, Paul repeats the condemnation in **verse 9**.

***“As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”***

God will condemn this one to a Christless eternity. Do we hear the Apostle Paul’s warning? This is an imperative. Our eternal salvation depends on this.

D. In **verse 10**, Paul underlines how critical this is.

***“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”***

Paul will allude to the fact that those who seek to circumcise the Galatians are interested in ***“counting their gains”*** and not in serving God. On the contrary, Paul wanted only the approval of Christ.

### ***What Can We Take from This?***

1. It is important that we carefully define the Gospel when we present it. Think about how Paul put it in **verse 3-4**. ***“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”***

2. The Gospel can be unpopular. Too often preachers try to smooth over the Gospel and not present the Gospel at all.

3. It is vital we do not add to the Gospel. Some teach we need to be baptized to be saved. Notice Paul did not say that. It is, ***“not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”*** (Titus 3:5-6)

**Hymn #202 *Amazing Grace***