

4-28-19 pm

The Only Gospel

Galatians 1:1-9

Introduction: These opening words of Paul's letter to the Galatians constitute one of the most solemn and severe attacks on defectors from the gospel. According to Paul, there is no other gospel because there is only one gospel -- that of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I. God's Provision of the Only Gospel (vv. 6-7)

The apostle marvels that these fickle Galatians had so soon defected from the gospel of God's provision. Two phrases, "the grace of Christ" (v. 6) and "the gospel of Christ" (v. 7) help us to understand the nature of the gospel:

1) The Redeeming Act of God in Christ (v. 6)... "the grace of Christ"

The gospel is the good news of God's redeeming act in Christ whereby He has made possible through His death a means of deliverance from sin and from this evil world -- that we might live to the will of God. Only God could have conceived, initiated and consummated such a redeeming work.

2) The Revealing Act of God in Christ (v. 7)... "the gospel of Christ"

The distinctiveness of the Christianity is that it is not man's search after God, but rather God's search after man. Once again, it is He who has taken the initiative to break into time and reveal Himself to us in the Person of Christ.

II. Man's Perversion of the Only Gospel (vv. 6-7)

--These words reveal a twofold process by which the gospel is perverted:

1) Man Deserts the Gospel of Christ (v. 6)

The Greek word for "removed" is one regularly used for a deserter, a turncoat, or an apostate, whether in war, politics or religion. This verb is used for migrating from place to place or changing in religion or morals.

CHANGING
Familiar
Stumbling
Block / Spine
Positive
Stands

2) Man Distorts the Gospel of Christ (v. 7)

The word "pervert" is literally "to reverse," or "to change to its very opposite." When a person deserts the gospel he quickly distorts it in order to rationalize his self-chosen philosophy. It is into this context that Paul calls for a return to the grace of God (v. 6), the Word of God (v. 9), and the church of God (v. 2).

Conclusion: We have seen God's provision of the gospel, and man's perversion of the gospel. For the wise person there is only one choice, and that is the unadulterated gospel of Christ, which is the only gospel.