

Theme: The Gospel provides the only path to salvation, and it can never be altered.

I. Intro – New and Improved?

- A. The need for ‘new and improved’
- B. Sometimes things are really better
- C. Sometimes people want the old – Coke
- D. Some things can never be changed!

II. Paul’s Greetings – Similar but Changed

- A. Common letter – X to Y, Greetings, Thanksgiving
- B. Similarities and differences in Paul
 - 1. Paul to church in _____
 - 2. Grace (not greetings) and peace (Hebrew)
 - 3. Thanksgiving for their faith or praise to God
- C. Similarities and differences in Galatians
 - 1. Same - Paul to Galatians; grace and peace
 - 2. Change – sent not from...; gave Himself....
 - 3. Big change – no thanksgiving!

III. Improving the Gospel?

- A. Some tried to change the Gospel (6; 7; 8; 9)

- 1. v6 – different gospel
 - 2. v7 – pervert the gospel
 - 3. v8 – gospel other than the one we preached
 - 4. v9 – gospel other than what you accepted
- B. The new message was not the Gospel (6-7; 7; 8; 9)
 - 1. v6-7 – different gospel, no gospel at all
 - 2. v7 – pervert the gospel
 - 3. v8 – a gospel other than the one we preached
 - 4. v9 – gospel other than what you accepted
 - C. The Galatians were accepting this false Gospel (6; 7)
 - 1. v6 – quickly deserting; turning to different gospel
 - 2. v7 – throwing you into confusion
 - D. Paul was angry at the entire situation
 - 1. v6 – astonished; deserting
 - 2. v7 – confusion; pervert
 - 3. v8, 9 – anathema!

IV. The New ‘Gospel’ and the True Gospel

- A. The new ‘gospel’ added works to Christ & faith

1. Hints in intro (4; 6)
2. Faith vs. works (2:16; 3:2-5; 3:6-7; 3:10-12)
3. Circumcision – (6:12; 5:2-6)

B. The Gospel can not be altered at all (7, 8-9)

1. Any attempt to change it perverts it! (7)
2. Those who do so are cursed! (8-9)

V. Conclusion & Summary

A. Do we see that the Gospel can't be changed?

1. Any attempt to change the Gospel perverts it
2. Humans constantly want to change the Gospel
3. Paul's opponents; Pelagius; Luther's opponents

B. Do we see that we are justified by faith alone in Christ alone?

1. Christ alone – no other way; only access to God
2. Goes against our 'tolerant' culture
3. Faith alone – nothing else needed
4. Many want to add baptism, church, moralism

C. Give thanks to God – He saves us by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone!

The Unchanging Nature of the Gospel

Galatians 1:1-10

November 28, 2004

Haven't You Been Good OR You Have Called Us

2 Corinthians 13:14

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ-- their Lord and ours: ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:1-4

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:1-3

¹⁶ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. Galatians 2:16

² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? ⁴ Have you suffered so much for nothing-- if it really was for nothing? ⁵ Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? Galatians 3:2-5

⁶ Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ⁷ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. Galatians 3:6-7

¹⁰ All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." ¹¹ Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." Galatians 3:10-12

¹² Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. Galatians 6:12

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴

You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galatians 5:2-6