

# Galatians: Study in Grace

## Introduction

# Outline:

- Intro 1:1-5
- Message and Messenger 1:6-2:21 (Biography)
  - **The Message 1:6-12**
    - The Different Gospel 1:6-10
    - “Not” a gospel 1:11,12
  - **The Messenger 1:13-2:21**
- Choices by Faith 3:1-5:1 (Theology)
- New Life and Walk 5:2-6:10 (Practice)
- Closing 6:11-18

# How to amaze an Apostle...

- Paul was in awe of the change... (6)
  - He had labored hard to make the Gospel real to them
  - He was sure/certain of their conversions
- so quickly transferring yourselves – lit.
  - Changing/Exchanging truth for lies, can you imagine?
  - Judaizers had come and confounded truth
  - 4 – JC came to give Himself for our sins to deliver us
  - Note: Him who called, not the Apostle...
  - It is God who calls and offers us grace, not man...
  - We are rejecting Christ when we choose man...
  - Why are we so quick to follow *heteron euaggelion*?

# Ancient and Modern Charlatans

- What do we need to watch for?
  - a different Jesus
  - a different grace
  - a different way to be saved
  - a different God
  - a different picture of God's love
- No matter what “the package”, we need to know:
  - What is being offered
  - What is being required
  - How Jesus fits into the lifestyle...
  - Jo 6:68; 8:24; 1Co 3:11

# “No Gospel” (7) vs. Gospel of Christ

- The message was not “good news” at all...
  - Return to ritual, ceremony and isolation from God
  - Adding to God’s grace; taking from God’s plan
- “disturbing” – *tarasso* – stir up, agitate, trouble
  - False teachers never come in to make things stable!
  - 2 Co 11:13ff, 2Peter 2, 2Tim 3:1-9 give some issues...
- “perverting” – *metastrepho* – to turn about, change
  - Ac 2:20 (sun/moon); Jas 4:9 (laughter to mourning)
  - Returning to Jewish ceremonies and rituals
  - Returning to “religious” works to earn salvation
  - What might these have looked like?

# Examples

- a. That God did show His love for the world by sending His Son, but He sent His Son in particular for the religious person (the Jew). They were saying that God loves the world, but He especially loves the people who live religious lives. (This makes God show favoritism & partiality, opens the door for caste systems and prejudice.)
- b. That Jesus Christ did come to earth; however, it was not to secure a perfect righteousness for men, but to show men how to live a good life that pleases God and merits God's approval.
- c. That Jesus Christ did die for man; however, He did not die for man's sin, but to show man how he should be so committed to God that he would die for God's cause. (This is similar to today's distortions...)
- d. That the death of Jesus Christ is not sufficient by itself; it cannot stand alone; it is not enough to make man acceptable to God. More is needed than the raw love of God and the pure grace of Christ.
- e. That a person must undergo the ritual that had been the main ritual of believers down through the centuries: circumcision (membership, baptism, etc.).
- f. That a person must work to keep the law of God and certain church ceremonies and rituals, rules and regulations.

# Contrary Gospel (8,9)

- Apostles(we), Angels or any man...
  - It does not matter WHO tries to teach it...
  - If it differs from what they had heard
  - NOTE: that had NO BIBLE, how did they remember?
  - What does this say about our attention/focus?
  - Do we LISTEN to the content? Would we know?
- *anathema* – cursed, without possible redemption
  - Was this too strong? (6x in scripture)
  - The church was young, such error would destroy the churches message and pervert God's plan
  - Jerusalem Council and Hebrews covers this also...

# A Matter of Character (10)

- Seeking man's favor – *aresko*; or God's?
  - This is one of the major issues, then and now
  - What is the ministry focused on?
- Seeking to please - *peitho*; strive to win, tranquillize
  - Gain confidence for what purpose?
  - This can be done in many ways, guises...
- Paul's answer – *doulos*; one who is permanently in servitude, in subjection to a master, attendant.
  - The servant's heart...
  - We are Christ's and His alone...