

No Other Gospel

Text: Galatians 1:1-9

Summary

This sermon focused on the necessity of clinging to God by the gospel of grace, for there is no other way. In these first few verses, Paul establishes his divine authority to deliver the message, summarizes the core of the gospel, and boldly confronts the Galatian church for deserting God for a false gospel. As disciples, we must examine the cultural waters we swim in, reject false gospels, and continually preach the true gospel of grace to ourselves and others.

Point 1: Paul Establishes His Authority

Scripture: Galatians 1:1-2

- Paul flashes his "badge" as an apostle, showing he is directly authorized and commissioned by King Jesus.
- Because the message comes directly from the King, neither Paul, the church, nor false teachers have the right to change it.
- The authoritative Word of God must carry more weight in our lives than the external cultural voices or the internal voices of fear, shame, and doubt that constantly vie for our attention.

Point 2: Paul Summarizes His Gospel

Scripture: Galatians 1:3-5

- **The universal need:** All people are born into this world in desperate need of God's grace and peace.
- **The source and means of our justification:** God does not give us grace because we have earned it like a paycheck; He gives it because Jesus willingly substituted Himself on the cross for our sins.
- **The source and means of our sanctification:** The same Spirit who regenerates us is the same Spirit at work changing us as we live out our days in this present evil age.
- **The plan of our salvation:** God's plan has always been to rescue a people for Himself – both Jew and Gentile – by grace through faith in Jesus. It is by faith that we receive adoption as sons and daughters and become heirs of Christ, calling God *our* Father.
- **The goal of our salvation:** Ultimately, our salvation is for the glory of God, leaving absolutely no room for human boasting in ourselves.

Point 3: Paul Confronts His Audience

Scripture: Galatians 1:6-9

- Unlike his other letters, Paul skips the thanksgiving and immediately expresses shock that the Galatians are turning to a different gospel. He shows the danger in two ways:
 - **Desertion:** Turning to a false gospel means turning away from Him who called us. It is leaving the Father's house and running away from the God who loves you.
 - **Destruction:** Paul pronounces a divine curse on those preaching a contrary gospel because the ultimate consequence of their message is death. Following them is jumping on board a sinking ship.

Conclusion:

- **Be Aware of False Gospels**
 - We must actively identify the "cultural waters" we swim in that pull our hearts toward false gospels (like comfort, prosperity, American dream, and moral relativism)
- **Cling to God by the Gospel of Grace**
 - When you fail, experience doubt, or feel ashamed, do not launch into a "mini-atonement project" to earn your way back into God's favor.
 - Preach the true gospel to yourself every day, reminding yourself that our rightstanding before God is exclusively because of His grace.