

THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

PART 1

THE FIRST GOSPEL MISSION

“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

—Acts 13.38-39

Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of His grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. . . . [then] to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, where they continued to preach the gospel. . . . They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples.

—Acts 14. 3, 6-7, 21



THE GOSPEL UNDER SIEGE

- ▶ Believers from the party of the Pharisees came from Judea to Antioch (*representing themselves as from James, the pastor at the church in Jerusalem*), insisting that, in order to be saved, the Gentiles had to be circumcised according to Jewish religious law (*Acts 15.1*)
- ▶ At the subsequent Council in Jerusalem, the believers belonging to the party of the Pharisees would demand that the Gentiles be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses (*Acts 15.5*)
- ▶ At the same time, this controversy has also infiltrated the churches in Galatia. The report of what is happening gets back to Paul in Antioch, and so, before traveling to Jerusalem, he writes an urgent letter to the churches in Galatia, recounting what happened at Antioch and rebuking them for so quickly frustrating and abandoning the grace of the Lord Jesus and accepting a corrupted gospel (*Galatians 1.6-9*)

THIS IS THE GOSPEL—

- (1) All have sinned and fall irremediably short of ever being right with God
- (2) God reveals the only viable solution:
 - ▶ a divine and holy righteousness from God through Jesus Christ
- (3) God presented Jesus Christ as a sacrifice of atonement

“propitiation” – a payment to appease wrath and satisfy judgment

 - ▶ Sin incurs the wrath of God
 - ▶ God, in love for sinful humanity (1 John 4.10; Romans 5.8), presented Christ as a satisfactory payment (propitiation) for the penalty of our sin
 - ▶ God’s wrath is turned from us to Christ
- (4) With the payment paid by Christ, God can then make right (justify; declare righteous and without sin) those whose faith is in Christ and his atoning work

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THE OF GRACE IN CHRIST—

- ▶ Christ, who is infinitely righteous
 - ▶ died as a substitute for who and what we are
 - ▶ helplessly and hopelessly unrighteous
 - ▶ because of our recalcitrant sin
- ▶ By virtue of Christ's substitutionary death
 - ▶ God forgives my sin
 - ▶ and declares my debt paid in full
 - ▶ according to the merit of Christ
- ▶ Thus, by my faith in Jesus Christ
 - ▶ God also declares me justified—
 - ▶ right in His sight—
 - ▶ having His full and infinite favor
 - ▶ and now possessing the the full and infinite merit of my Substitute
- ▶ The responsibility for my sin has been blamed on Christ
 - ▶ the righteousness of Christ has been attributed to me
- ▶ I am justified— and this is **GRACE!**



Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches in Galatia:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the One who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

—Galatians 1.1-10

“GOSPEL”

- ▶ *euangelion* - a good message
- ▶ *euangelizo* - to announce good news; to preach (the gospel)
- ▶ *proeunangelizomai* - to announce good news in advance

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

—Galatians 1.11-12

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

—Mark 1.1

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

—Luke 2.8-11

“GOSPEL”

- ▶ *euangelion* - a good message; good news (cf. Matthew 4.23)
- ▶ *euangelizo* - to announce good news; to preach the good news (cf. Luke 2.10)
- ▶ *proeuangelizomai* - to announce good news in advance (Galatians 3.8)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

—Romans 1.1-2, 16-17

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

—1 Corinthians 15.1-4

THE GOSPEL

- ▶ “the gospel of the grace of God” - Acts 20.24
- ▶ “the gospel of the kingdom” - Matthew 4.23
- ▶ “the gospel of Christ” - Romans 12.16
- ▶ “the gospel of peace” - Ephesians 6.15
- ▶ “the gospel of your salvation” - Ephesians 1.13
- ▶ “the word of truth, the gospel” - Colossians 1.6
- ▶ Satan attempts to blind people to the light of the “glorious gospel of Christ” - 2 Corinthians 4.4
- ▶ God will punish those who “do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus” - 2 Thessalonians 1.8
- ▶ “the everlasting gospel” applicable to all people everywhere - Revelation 14.6

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

—Matthew 24.10-14

“ANY OTHER GOSPEL”

- ▶ Any gospel that diminishes our sin,
- ▶ Any gospel that emphasizes our own goodness and merit,
- ▶ Any gospel that does not address our lack of merit before God,
- ▶ Any gospel that does not declare that it is only through faith in the substitutionary work of Christ and His atoning payment that we are saved from sin and judgment,

—IS NO “GOOD NEWS” AT ALL!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father . . . I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the One who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all.

—Galatians 1.3-4, 6-7