



# What Is and Isn't the Gospel.

Galatians 1:6-9



**I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.**



## Galatians 1:3

- **I am astonished** that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

**This is a very strong word.**



# Galatians 1:3

- that you are so **quickly deserting him** who **called** you in the grace of Christ and are **turning to a different gospel—**



**Called** refers to the work  
of God in bringing one to  
salvation.



**Notice** the inseparable link or relationship Paul makes between God and His Gospel.

**Notice**

**“Him who called you”**



# Galatians 1:3

- that you are so **quickly**  
**deserting him** who **called**  
you in the grace of Christ and are  
**turning to a different**  
**gospel**—

**You can't turn to another or  
different Gospel and still abide  
in Christ.**



**To leave the gospel is to leave  
the God and Savior of the one  
true Gospel.**



**The exclusivity Paul is establishing is stunning.**



**We don't have multiple paths (gospels) to the same God.**

**The gospel is the means by which man is reconciled to God.**

**Paul is rejecting the view that there are multiple ways that man can be reconciled to God.**



You can't have the  
God of the Bible  
and the \_\_\_\_\_  
gospel.



# What is the one and only true Gospel?



**R.C. SPROUL**

1939–2017



Where are you  
going in the Bible to  
define it?

*euaggelion (euaggelizō)*



**Gospel literally means—  
glad tidings (news)**

**1 Cor. 15:1-4**



# Two Parts

1. What Christ Did!
2. Human Responsibility.



# Where are we turning?

**You must memorize this  
location for the gospel.  
This is the most correct  
answer.**





# 1 Corinthians 15:1

• Now I would remind you,  
brothers, **of the**  
**gospel** I preached to  
you,



**Paul tells us about the church at Corinth's reception to the Gospel before He defines it.**



# 1 Corinthians 15:2

- which you **received**, in which **you stand**, and by which you are being saved, **if you hold fast to the word** I preached to you—unless you **believed** in vain.

**Notice everything v. 2 tells us:**



- **Received (believed in the past)**
- **You stand (presently believe)**
- **If you hold fast (continue to believe)**

## **2. Human Responsibility**

**Emphasize!**



**Salvific belief (authentic faith) is not intellectual assent.**

**You don't believe on Jesus as your Savior in the same way you believe that Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.**



# 1 Corinthians 15:2

- which you received, in which you stand, and **by which you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

# Notice



**Those who received, believe and stand on the gospel are being saved.**



## **Saved People have been**

- **Born from above by the Holy Spirit**
- **Sealed & indwelt with the Holy Spirit**
- **Adopted into the family of God**
- **Credited with the righteousness of Christ**
- **Forgiven of all their sins: past, present and future**
- **Granted membership in the body of Christ**
- **Given eternal life**

## **Are**

- **Eternally secure in Christ Jesus**

## **Will be**

- **Rescued from the wrath of God and hell**
- **Made righteous by Christ Jesus**





**In v. 3-4**

**Paul defines the  
Gospel**

**But First...**



# 1 Corinthians 15:3

- For I delivered to you as  
**of first importance**  
what I also received:

**From Jesus Christ**



**Do you give the  
gospel first  
importance in your  
life?**



# Now to the Narrative



# 1 Corinthians 15:3b–4

- **that Christ** died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

# That Christ



- **The Man**
- **God's Anointed One (the Messiah)**
- **The one and only Son of God**
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Triune Godhead**
- **Jesus who saves His People**
- **Of Nazareth**



# 1 Corinthians 15:3b–4

- that Christ **died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, that **he was buried**, that he was **raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures,



# 1. Death

- FOR OUR\* SINS
- ON A CROSS

# 2. Burial

- IN JERUSALEM

# 3. Resurrection

- ON THE THIRD DAY

**The  
Gospel  
of the  
Lord  
Jesus  
Christ**

**\*Our refers to those who have placed authentic faith in this gospel for their salvation from their sins.**



# The Eternal Gospel



**The gospel is the good news that God is reconciling sinners to Himself eternally through the sacrificial and substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection of the man Christ Jesus through authentic faith in what Jesus, the one and only Son of God, accomplished on a tree 2000 years ago on a skull-shaped hill in the city of Jerusalem.**



# Now Back To Galatians



# Galatians 1:6

- I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and **are following a different gospel—not that there is another one,**



**A different gospel  
is any gospel that  
changes or adds to the  
1 Cor. 15 definition**



**Turn over to**

**Galatians 2:14**

**Galatians 3:3**



## Galatians 2:14

- But when I saw that their conduct **was not in step with the truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you **force** the Gentiles to **live like Jews?**”



# Galatians 3:3

- Are you so foolish?
- Having begun by the Spirit,  
are you now being perfected  
by the flesh?



**From the content of the letter to the churches of Galatia it appears that those who were forcing Gentiles to live like Jews were the ones distorting the gospel or leading people to leave grace alone and add keeping the Mosaic law.**





## Galatians 1:7

- but there are some who **trouble you** and want to **distort** the gospel of Christ.



# There are two ways to distort the Gospel.

1. Change the who,  
what, why, or how.



## **For example, Jesus wasn't**

- **the Son of God; he was a prophet**
- **born of a virgin**
- **without sin**
- **the one and only Son of God**

**For example, Jesus died to**



- **create financial equity among people**
- **eliminate poverty**
- **heal physical and mental illness**

**For example, Jesus did not**



- **die**
- **rise from the grave**



## Galatians 1:7

- but there are some who **trouble you** and want to **distort** the gospel of Christ.



**There are two ways  
to distort the Gospel.**

## **2. Human Responsibility.**



**In the 1<sup>st</sup> century, Jews were telling Gentile converts they had to keep the Mosaic law.**

**In other words it wasn't grace alone.**

**Or what Christ accomplished wasn't sufficient.**



# Today “churches” add



- **keeping the sacraments to the gospel**
- **baptism to the gospel**
- **speaking in tongues to the gospel**

## Some add the requirement to:



- **pray a prayer**
- **confess sins**
- **repent of all your sins**



# How do we communicate the necessity of good works without distorting the Gospel?



**Over emphasizing the  
importance of good works as  
salvific distorts the gospel**

**But suggesting faith without works  
is salvific faith also distorts the  
gospel**

# Authenticate Christians



- **Get baptized as a profession of faith**
- **Will pray often and always**
- **Confess sin whenever necessary**
- **Repent as often as needed**
- **Manifest the gifts of the Spirit**
- **Celebrate communion**

**But not to get or keep salvation**