

Date: 12 Feb 2023

Scripture Passage: Galatians 1:6-10

Title: Only One Gospel

Introduction

- Last week we considered Gal 1:1-5: (i) Paul, the writer, a true apostle; (ii) addressed to churches he planted in Galatia during his 1st journey (AD 46-48); (iii) gospel is Christ, crucified, to save those who are His, by God's will & to His glory.
- Paul had to defend his message & apostleship. Judaizers attacking both, claiming that faith in Christ insufficient, must keep Jewish laws too (2:16). Claimed Paul was not a true apostle.
- This message is that the true gospel must be valued, preserved, and propagated.

I. It must be valued (6-7).

- For what it is. The gospel is the means of salvation. It is freely given to us by grace. It leads us to peace and reconciliation with God. Left to ourselves we will not be able to be saved. It was all through Jesus Christ death on the cross. Christ paid for our sins against God. Salvation is from God, given to undeserving sinners by grace, which leads to peace and reconciliation with God. God forgives our sins through Jesus, and He accepts us as children. We are reconciled to Him. Therefore, we must value the gospel for what it is. Paul marveled (v6). The churches in Galatia were turning away from the gospel. Turning away in ~5 years of receiving true gospel. They were not going from inaccurate to more accurate (cf. Apollos, Acts 18:26). If it were like Apollos building up in the true faith, that would be good. But the Galatians were going astray. The apostle Paul was concerned that they were not valuing the gospel as they ought. The gospel concerns: (i) our relationship with **God**, it was God showing his mercy to an undeserving people. ; (ii) who called you by grace; (iii) of Christ, who died for you. A different message is not the gospel, even if called such.
- In view of attempts to pervert it. The false teachers are not concerned for you but themselves (cf. 4:17). They are not concerned about Christ but their tradition (5:1-2). The believers in Galatia were delivered from this present age (v4). Salvation is by grace, not works. It leads to peace, not misery of bad conscience (v3, cf 2:16). The Judaizes were trying to bring them back to the bondage of law keeping. You cannot be saved by keeping the moral or the ceremonial law. Christ the fulfilment of the law, no more reliance on law-keeping, whether moral or ceremonial. Ceremonial laws, like circumcision, were abolished (4:9-11). Moral law kept for sanctification (5:13). Moral law does not grant you salvation. You cannot be justified by your works. You are forgiven by God through faith in Jesus Christ. That is freely given to you by God. You cannot earn it. Justification is God forgiving us of our sins, is achieved not by our efforts, but by receiving it freely from God through Jesus Christ. Come and trust in Jesus Christ. He will give you salvation leading to peace. We are forgiven by God not by our effort in trying to be good. But once saved, we begin to grow in holiness, that is sanctification. The Judaizes were saying that you have to keep to the law, whether ceremonial or moral. Paul is saying NO. Ceremonial laws have been fulfilled in Christ. Moral law is kept after we have been saved. We keep the moral law to live a holy life. Value the gospel because there are people coming to pervert it. Don't let people take it away from you.

II. It must be preserved and defended (8-9)

- Regardless of who the perpetrators are. The Judaizes were claiming authority based on authority from the apostles in Jerusalem. "Even if", i.e. hypothetically, including Paul & companions, or an angel, depart from gospel. "Anathema" is set aside for destruction in hell. In the Bible, this is used to describe those set aside by God for destruction in hell. Value the gospel and defend it regardless of who those people may be, or what credentials they may have. Today, regardless of what degrees, seminary, or church he comes from. If he is teaching a perverted gospel, do not let him sway you. Regardless of civil or ecclesiastical, we do not bother. We must value and defend it. It is often that we don't value it enough that's why we don't defend it.

- Regardless of the circumstances. Some argue that times have changed. Circumstances have changed. Times have changed. Paul will not allow them to give excuses like that. The gospel constant. The way of salvation is unchangeable. The way of salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone. Christ the son of God came to die on the cross to save His people. And that is the only way by which we can be saved. We must repent, believe, and follow Christ. Christ alone. Don't add to it, don't subtract from it, don't pervert it. Whatever the circumstances regardless of time and age. We must resist all attempts to change the gospel. Politics & social conditions may change, but don't allow gospel perversion. Culture is no excuse. This can be extended beyond the gospel, and to the whole of the Bible. Do not change things that are taught in the Bible because of culture. We see that in worship today. Say no to the perversion of the way of worship taught in the bible.

III. It must be propagated (10)

- Faithfully, without seeking man's approval. Allegations of Judaizers that Paul accommodated his message to please men, they claim he was a former Pharisee, zealous for the law, is now building an empire for himself. But Paul is speaking bluntly because he is not trying to please men. He is only being faithful to God. There is a time to be firm and strong.
- Faithfully, in obedience to Christ alone. Because Christ the One who commissioned Paul to preach (v12 cf. 1). Revelation of God the father, through Jesus Christ (cf. Matt. 28:18). Therefore obedience to Him. Not pleasing men, otherwise no persecution (5:11; 6:12). Paul is a "bond servant" out of love. Paul is motivated by the love of Christ. The gospel is only of use when it is propagated. You value the gospel, you defend it, and you propagate it. The gospel is useless unless it is propagated, unless it is preached. When we have experienced the love of Christ, we want to share it with people. Share the gospel with your unbelieving friends. The gospel is good as far as it is propagated. The moment you keep it to yourself, or hide it in the ground, it becomes useless. It defeats its purpose. We propagate it out of **love for our god**. We propagate it out of **faithfulness to Christ** because we are bond servants of his.

IV. Summary and Application

- Do we value the gospel enough, defend it, & propagate it? In season and out of season. There is no right time or wrong time to share the gospel. It is always the right time to preach the gospel. Where people think otherwise, we say we are to preach the gospel in season and out of season. Propagate it in all seasons.
- Know the difference between justification & sanctification. As we work through this epistle of Galatians, we will explain more what justification & sanctification are. But sufficient has been given today for us to understand that the gospel concerns our salvation leading through faith in Christ, leading to a holy life of service to God. One concerns justification (how we are forgiven by God – it is by faith in Christ alone not by works). Sanctification is holy living as we serve God. We need to keep the law of God, we need to put to death sin, we need discipline in our lives. These concern sanctification. Justification and sanctification cannot be separated. One leads to the other. Don't say that salvation is by works. You can only come humbly before God and confess that you are unable to save yourself. Salvation can only be found in Jesus Christ who died on the cross to save his people. Are you saved? May God deal mercifully with us all.