

April 27, 2008



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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God's Project:
Effective Christians
Who have been Set Free
Studies in Galatians

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Text</u>
4/27	No Other Gospel	1:1-12
5/04	Salvation by Faith	2:15-3:5
5/11	Mother's Day Special	
5/18	Purpose of the Law	3:19-4:7
5/25	Christian Freedom	5:1-15
6/01	Walking in the Spirit	5:22-6:10

All members are encouraged
to **ENCOUNTER** God each
Wednesday at 6:30pm
in Luper Hall

BELIEVE NO OTHER GOSPEL **GAL 1:1-12**

Introduction from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

False teaching has been around since the beginning of the church. Sometimes it is open and flagrant; at other times it is very subtle. We can be sure of this: where there is the true, there will be the false; where there is the genuine, there will be the counterfeit. Even though Paul preached the "truth of the gospel" (Gal. 2:5), his steps were constantly dogged by various false teachers. Galatians confronts the teaching of those known as Judaizers, who essentially wanted to make Christianity into another Jewish sect. Though they claimed belief in Jesus, they wanted Gentile converts to keep all the rules and regulations of the Mosaic law. In effect, they wanted to Judaize the Christian faith. In all likelihood, the Judaizers were from Palestine and closely associated with the Pharisees (Acts 15:5). In A.D. 49, Paul and Barnabas were sent by the church at Antioch to Jerusalem to discuss this very issue. Some were actually saying, "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved" (vs. 1). The Judaizers were not merely suggesting that keeping some of the Mosaic law might be commendable: rather, they were demanding conformity to the law as a matter of salvation. This meant that they were adding to God's simple plan of salvation through Christ alone.

Heart of the Lesson from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

We live in an age when the exclusivity of the gospel of Jesus Christ is maligned. Preaching that Jesus is the only way to heaven is decried as being intolerant of others and their beliefs. The assault against the truth of God's Word has been going on since the dialogue in the Garden of Eden when Satan cast doubt on what God had said. This week's lesson will use an incident in Paul's day to help us stand fast in our day.

The gospel (Gal. 1:1-5)

Before the Apostle Paul began to address the problem in the Galatian churches, he cleverly wove the essence of the gospel message into the introduction of the epistle. The Person of Christ, His sinless life, His substitutionary death, and His glorious resurrection are succinctly stated. This was not just a way to praise God as Paul greeted his readers. It was also a way of implanting in their minds right away the very message they needed to hold on to. Does not the Christian church of today need the preacher as well as the Sunday school teacher to proclaim the good news even to believers from time to time? This is not to say that it should be the only truth that is taught from the Word of God, but it does serve as a reminder about what we believe and need to go on believing.

A different gospel (Gal. 1:6)

The Greek language has two words that can be translated "another." Paul uses both of them in this passage to make his point clear. The Greek word used in this verse, *heteros*, means "another kind." To illustrate this let us say you get rid of your car and buy a bicycle instead. You have traded one form of transportation for *another kind*. This is the concept the Apostle Paul had in mind when he told the Galatians they were forsaking what he had preached to them and had reminded them of in the opening verses. They had laid aside the true gospel for another message that was different from what Paul had preached, and the difference was deadly.

There is only one gospel (Gal. 1:7-12)

In verse 7 when Paul spoke of the pseudo gospel the Galatians had accepted, he used the other Greek word that means "another." This word, *allos*, denotes specifically "another of the same kind." An example of this would be if you had a certain kind of car and you bought *another car* of the same make and model. Paul used these contrasting Greek words to point out that there was no other message of good news than the one he preached to them. To add anything to it or to take anything away from it was to change its meaning and power completely. They were being told by others to add law to grace, and Paul was adamantly against that. He was so sure of his position that he called down a curse on anyone, even himself, who distorted the simple, clear message of who Christ is, what He has done, and how we must be saved. With that in mind, let us think through what we say when we witness. Let us be sure it is the gospel as presented in Scripture. Also, may we be emboldened to be firm in our adherence to the true gospel when we share Christ with others. We may be called intolerant, unloving, unkind, holier than thou, spiritual elitists, and the like; but Christ will call us faithful.

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

THE ESSENCE OF THE TRUE GOSPEL (GAL 1:1-5)

Must come from an authorized source (vs 1-2)

Scripture is God breathed (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Scripture never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Scriptures are the very words of God (Rom 3:1-2)

In the past God spoke through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but now speaks through Jesus and His words (Heb 1:1-2)

Must be all about Jesus (vs 3)

Must be about Jesus because that is why the gospel was written (Mark 1:1)

Must be about Jesus because it is the revelation about Jesus (Rom 16:25-26)

Must be about Jesus because God will punish those who do not know or obey Jesus' gospel (2 Thess 1:8)

Must be about Jesus because salvation is found in no other source (Acts 4:12)

Its purpose is redemption (vs 4-5)

Jesus gave Himself for us to redeem us (Titus 2:14)

Redemption only comes through Jesus (Rom 3:24)

Jesus became our redemption (1 Cor 1:30)

We have redemption through Jesus' blood (Eph 1:7)

PAUL'S CONCERN ABOUT A DIFFERENT GOSPEL (GAL 1:6-9)

Some will desert the true gospel (vs 6)

Desert the gospel because the heart is far from God (Isa 29:13)

Desert the gospel because of being deceived by others (Gal 3:1-5)

Desert the gospel because of turning back to weak and miserable principles (Gal 4:9)

Desert the gospel because of not putting up with sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3)

Some will pervert the gospel (vs 7)

False gospels are those where Jesus is not preached (2 Cor. 11:4)

False gospels are those where there is only meaningless talk (1 Tim. 1:6-7)

False gospels teach what the worldly man wants to hear (2 Tim. 4:3)

False gospels introduce destructive heresies (2 Peter 2:1)

Some will be condemned by the gospel (vs 8-9)

Condemned by the gospel because of not being obedient to God's word (Gal 3:10-11)

Condemned by the gospel because of masquerading as servants of righteousness (2 Cor 11:13-15)

Condemned by the gospel because of rejecting faith (1 Tim 1:19)

Condemned by the gospel because of adding or taking away from God's word (Rev 22:18-19)

HOW TO PRESENT THE GOSPEL (GAL 1:10-12)

Not intended to please men (vs 10)

Should be presented by men approved by God (1 Thess 2:4)

Should be presented as not trying to have friendship with the world (James 4:4)

Should be presented as working for the Lord, not for men (Col 3:22-24)

Should be presented in a way that pleases God (Col 1:10)

Must be made known to men (vs 11)

Made known through passing on what has been received from God (1 Cor 11:23)

Made known through preaching (1 Cor 15:1-2)

Made known through the written word (Eph 3:3-6)

Made known through revelation (Matt 16:17)

Made known through faith (Rom 3:21-22)

Must be revealed by Jesus and approved by God (vs 12)

Revealed by Jesus through prophetic writings (Rom 16:25-26)

Revealed by Jesus through God's purpose (Eph 1:9)

Approved by God because it is in obedience to Him (Acts 5:29)

Approved by God because He tests the hearts of those who have been entrusted with it (1 Thess 2:4)