



THE DANGER OF RELEVANCE

SEPTEMBER 25TH & 26TH, 2010

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 - c. PROBLEM *CLARIFIED*: WHO ARE WE TRYING TO PLEASE? (1:10)

⁶ 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— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:6-7 (ESV)

Paul is not angry at the Galatians but angry for them. He's a frustrated Father. He is entreating and correcting them – wanting to bring them in line with sound doctrine.

Astonished in Greek is θαυμάζω (*thaumazō*). Astonished may not be strong enough. I am amazed. I am in wonder. There is an emotional angst to the word.

Deserting in Greek is μετατίθημι (*metatithēmi*). It primarily means to transfer or change. For example Hebrews 11:5 (ESV) says: ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him.

How often do we want to distort the gospel of Christ? Why?

NOT A GOSPEL

There are two Greek words for different or other. One is *heteros* and means different of another kind. The other is *ollos* and means different of the same kind.

Paul's point is that there really is no other gospel. There are other religions. There are other scriptures. There is no other 'good news'.

This means that there is no scriptural room for the spiritual pluralism and universalism that is so prevalent today – even in the church.

What is the gospel? Do you know what it is?

NOT ROOTED IN GRACE

Christ +. Every cult is a variation of some sort of legalism that rejects the pure grace of God. It starts with Christ, but then adds something else. Christ + circumcision. Christ + speaking in tongues. Christ + social justice.

NOT FROM GOD

Notice that Paul claims they have abandoned the Person of the gospel not merely the principle of it. They have abandoned the gospel of Christ for the gospel of men.

The scandal of this problem is not that they are turning from Christ to an “outside” religion – rather they are falling to an “insider” distortion.

NOT FOR THEIR GOOD

They are being troubled. The gospel brings peace. The gospel + brings despair.

APPLICATION: *Doctrinal maturity is not a luxury but an absolute necessity.*

¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:10-16 (ESV)

⁸ 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. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:8-9 (ESV)



Accursed in the Greek is ἀνάθεμα **anathema**. It means to be cursed, to be cut off from Christ!

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

Romans 9:3 (ESV)

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10 (ESV)

The gospel of Christ is God centered and God honoring. God saves us.

The anti-gospel of Christ + is man centered and man honoring. God helps us and we save ourselves.

APPLICATION: There is always a desire to 'please man' and there is a sense in which we should desire to please others. No Jerks for Jesus from this text. The danger is when we compromise on Christ and water down the gospel in order to make it more appealing. In our day and age this danger can be named relevance.



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