

## The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

### The Exclusive Nature of the Gospel

Galatians 1:6-12

#### 1. The True Gospel Has Been Revealed

Paul had preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to people in the province of Galatia where many received it and many churches were planted. They received the Holy Spirit and had been reconciled to God by faith in Christ, and not by works done in righteousness (Gal. 3:1-3; cf. Rom. 4:5, 16; 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9).

#### 2. The Specific Counterfeit Will Be Refuted (cf. Gal. 5:4)

There are several different forms that corruptions to the gospel can take. The heresy which Paul confronts in Galatians is the theology that justification comes by faith and keeping the Law (Gal. 5:4). Among other common forms of gospel corruption are those which deny that salvation necessarily results in righteous conduct (Ja. 2:26), those that promote grace enabled licentiousness (2 Pt. 2:13-14), and others which are based in denials of essential truths about the Person and work of Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 15:16-19).

#### 3. Counterfeit Gospels Exist in Christian Churches (vs.6-7)

False teachers were spreading lies about God and salvation amongst the churches from the very earliest days, and they had to be severely responded to (cf. Acts 20:28-30; 2 Cor. 11; Jude; 2 Peter 2). False gospels will always be introduced carefully and craftily by individuals who profess to teach orthodoxy and to speak with divine authority when neither are true (cf. 1 Cor. 1:17; 2:1-2; 2 Cor. 11:14).

#### 4. Counterfeit Gospels Distort the Truth (v.7)

Directly teaching contrary doctrines to that which has been revealed (cf. Acts 17:11) and not being straightforward about the gospel (cf. Gal. 2:14) are among the many ways that the gospel can be distorted by believers or unbelievers.

#### 5. Counterfeit Gospels Entice the Flesh

A false gospel will be appealing to people according to the desires of the flesh (cf. Gal 5:19-21). Some of the ways that this may ensnare people is by appealing to their flesh in the guise of the wisdom of the world and intellectualism (1 Cor. 1:18-25), sensuality (2 Pt. 2:13-14), or greed (2 Pt. 2:15; Jude 11).

#### 6. Counterfeit Gospels Do Not Save the Soul (cf. 1 Pt. 1:9)

Those people who believe a false gospel and live according to it are among the multitudes walking the broad road leading to destruction (Mt. 7:13-14, 21-23; 25:46). There is only eternal life and eternal death, and only those who, by faith, gain approval from God enter into eternal life (Hb. 11:1-2; cf. Jn. 3:36).

#### 7. Counterfeiters Will Be Condemned to Hell (vs.8-9)

We are able to spot a hireling who is preaching a false gospel by the content of their message or the makeup of their character (Mt. 7:15-20; 2 Pt. 2:10ff; Jude 16, 19). Unless they repent of their sin and trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins, they will be condemned to eternal conscious torment in hell (cf. Lk. 13:28).