

## The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

### The Severity of Departure

Galatians 1:6-10

1. Their departure from the gospel was Quick  
Paul had spent many months with the churches in Galatia, and while he had left them in their infancy, he did not leave them without the gospel of Christ (v.6; cf. Gal. 3:3-4).
2. Their departure from the gospel was Drastic
  - A. Different but Not Another  
Paul uses two words which both can be translated as 'other' or 'another' and do not necessarily have a significant difference in meaning (cf. 1 Cor 12:10). Used as Paul does here, contrasting to one another, they help to articulate a clear and necessary distinction. Paul uses ἕτερος (heteros) in v.6 which means another of a different kind whereas he uses ἄλλος (allos) in v.7 which means another of the same kind. There is no other gospel message that is also true (i.e. of the same kind), so any other gospel (i.e. a different kind of message) is not good news, and is therefore a false gospel.
  - B. Trading Grace for Merit  
The essence of the Galatian heresy was an abandonment of the doctrine of justification solely on the basis of Christ's completed work which is then imputed to the sinner by grace through faith alone (cf. Eph 2:8-9) for a doctrine of justification only based partially on this and partially on the individual's obedience to the Law (cf. Gal. 3:2, 21; 5:4)
3. Their departure from the gospel was Deadly  
The dual anathemas pronounced on those who would preach a false gospel is emphatic and severe (vs.8-9). Those foolish individuals who believe and agree with the false message are likewise excoriated by Paul (Gal. 5:4).
4. Their departure from the gospel was to Fickle (to please men) (v.10)  
While there were many and compounding influences which contributed to the abandonment of the true gospel for a false gospel, one of them that Paul notes is the desire to please men which likely included actions to avoid persecution (cf. Gal. 5:11).