

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

The Extreme Wickedness of Teaching a False Gospel

Galatians 5:7-12

1. **Obstruction** (vs.7-8)

The false teachers persuasively taught a different message than Paul and it resulted in the churches disobeying the gospel (cf. Acts 6:7; 17:30). Their teaching was earthly and demonic, it did not come from the Lord (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1).

2. **Corruption** (v.9-10a)

Jesus warned the disciples to be on guard against various pervasive dangers which had the ability to utterly undermine the totality of His message (cf. Luke 12:1). What initially seemed to be innocuous distinctions proved irreconcilable with that gospel (cf. Gal. 1:6-9). However, Paul was certain that, after correction, the Galatians would reject the Judaizers' false teachings (cf. Jude 24).

3. **Destruction** (v.10b)

Whenever this judaizing heresy was introduced into the churches it resulted in a confusion concerning the truth of the gospel and agitation amongst the congregations (cf. Acts 15:24). Paul is confident that these false teachers will be held accountable by the Lord for their wickedness (Gal. 1:6-9; cf. 2 Pet 2:3, 17; Jude 4).

4. **Distortion** (v.11)

False teachers do not immediately declare with clarity and brevity their intent to distort the truth (John 10:1-2; 2 Pet. 2:1; cf. Acts 20:30). False doctrine may be incrementally introduced (cf. Gal. 4:10; 5:3) while misrepresenting what faithful teachers have said. If the Judaizers were preaching the true message, the gospel would cease to be scandalous (cf. 1 Cor. 1:21-23).

5. **Mutilation** (v.12)

Paul's desire that these Judaizers would cut off the entirety of their maleness vividly captures how much he despises their teaching. Though shocking, it properly expresses a love for both the Lord and for His people as well as a righteous indignation toward those who are lying about God. The punishment under the Law was death for leading the people away from following God (Deut. 13:1-5). Jesus said that it would be better to be drowned in the sea than to mislead someone who believed in Him (Matt. 18:6), and He will seize the antichrist and the false prophet and throw them alive into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).