

THE TRUE GOSPEL Part 4

We've been talking about the **TRUE GOSPEL**. However, if there's such a thing as the *true* gospel, then there must also be a *false* gospel!

Galatians 1:6–8

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Notice how the Apostle Paul acknowledges that there are “other” gospels that are different from the true gospel. Here's how you can know if the gospel being preached is “another” gospel...You know that a gospel is not the true gospel IF

IT SEPARATES YOU FROM THE GRACE OF GOD

Galatians 1:6

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Any gospel (doctrine) that separates you from the grace of God is a *false* gospel. (We are separated from grace whenever we seek to be justified by works!)

Galatians 5:2–4

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Paul is warning the Galatians that if they receive circumcision for the purpose of being justified, they will fall from grace and be severed from Christ. Therefore, a **WORKS GOSPEL** (a gospel that requires you to perform a work to be saved) is a *false* gospel. The true gospel says we are saved apart from our works!

2 Timothy 1:8, 9

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Secondly, you know that a gospel is not the true gospel IF...

IT PERVERTS THE GRACE OF GOD

Galatians 1:6, 7

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

When we talk about *perverting* the grace of God we are talking about *changing* grace into something it's not intended to be.

Jude 4

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are people who are trying to change the grace of God into a permission to sin. This is an example of a **HYPER GRACE GOSPEL**, or a gospel that misrepresents what the grace of God is actually for.

Romans 6:1, 2

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

First of all, we must understand that the grace (and mercy) of God are not given to those who *willfully* sin.

Hebrews 10:26–29

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Secondly, grace of God is not just given to us in order to escape punishment. Grace is actually given to us for *obedience*.

Romans 1:5

5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Thirdly, you know that a gospel is not the true gospel IF...

IT IS VOID OF POWER

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Notice, the true gospel contains POWER.

Romans 15:18, 19

18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, 19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Therefore, any gospel that is void of the Spirit's power is not only a powerless gospel, but it's not the **FULL GOSPEL!** There are large segments of Christianity that do not feel the Spirit's power is necessary in connection with the gospel.

2 Timothy 3:5

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

People who deny the power associated with the gospel have only a *form* of godliness. Meaning, they may have the "features" of what it means to be like God, but they lack the "essence" of it.

1 Timothy 3:16

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The essence of godliness is God manifested in our flesh! The FULL gospel is not "let me tell you about God." The FULL gospel is "let me show you God!" Therefore, unless you are expecting Christ to be manifested in your mortal flesh, you are missing the point.

Lastly, you know that a gospel is not the true gospel IF...

IT IS VOID OF THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:17

17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

Paul did not want to make the message of the cross of none effect by his clever speech. The point I want you to see is that you cannot preach the gospel apart from the cross! Moreover, the cross says, “You cannot save yourself.” Not only that, but you must give up our life to be saved (or receive eternal life).

Unfortunately, there are some who have subverted the message of the cross by preaching a **PROSPERITY GOSPEL**. The prosperity gospel offers benefits without the cost of losing one’s life. It is a gospel that suggests living for God (godliness) is a means of becoming rich.

1 Timothy 6:5–6, 10

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Those that suggest godliness (or living for God) is a means of gain or prosperity is not preaching the true gospel. But, someone might say, “Doesn’t the Bible offer us *abundant life*?” Yes, but not without a price!

Mark 10:28–30

28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Notice, the promise of houses, brethren and lands is given to those who pay the price, which is giving up their life. There are those who try to offer us the benefits of the gospel without accepting the terms. This is a false gospel!