

Wrongly Accused: Part Two
Paul defends the Biblical Gospel

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- How would you summarize the central idea of this week's message in one sentence? Was there anything significant that stood out to you from the message that you would share with the group? (Hint: What was your personal “aha” moment?)
- Based on what we've learned already this week, have any of us ever encountered counterfeit gospels or detractors against the true Biblical gospel? Is this common today?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- We learned this week that the gospel is simple, but many people try to complicate it with additional rules, regulations, and works of man. When men accept a fraudulent works based salvation, they are saying in their hearts that Jesus was not enough to fully save us. Let's discuss this idea, and truly examine our own hearts to be sure that we are 100% trusting in Jesus...and 0% trusting in us.
- God calls Christians to live a holy life. When we are saved, we are declared righteous. In Christ, God has given the believer a new nature, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, power over sins and sinful habits, spiritual weapons designed for our victory, and the admonition throughout the New Testament to crucify the flesh with its passions and lusts so that we can be holy unto the Lord. What's the difference between living a holy life as a response to the gospel, and looking to works to justify us?
- False teachers had crept into the church at Corinth and were challenging the truth with false ideas. Paul clearly says that these people were of the Devil, and that they sought to deceive the Corinthians like Satan deceived Eve in the garden. Why do you think the Corinthians yielded to the false teaching of the Judaizers, and what steps can we take to make sure that we don't drift from the truth? What tools has God given us so that we can know what is true and what is false?
- Paul challenged the Corinthians with a concerning statement...you may well put up with this! The Corinthians were entertaining false doctrines about a fake Jesus, a phony Spirit, and a false gospel. In light of this teaching, how much false doctrine should a committed Christian tolerate in their lives? To what degree should our customs, traditions, backgrounds, and heritage have to submit to sound Biblical doctrines in defining what we believe as Christ followers?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- John 6:27-29 The work of salvation.
- Philippians 2:12 What does Paul mean by “working out” our salvation?
- Acts 15 The Jerusalem council.
- Galatians 2 Paul teaches about the law and grace.

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- Perhaps the greatest application that we can make this week is to examine our salvation to make sure that we are trusting in the real gospel. A sincere belief in a false gospel still leads to death. Are we trusting in our works, our rules, our heritage, our customs, religious laws, restrictive behaviors, or the decrees of a man or of a denomination...or are we trusting fully in the finished work of the cross?
- What would you say to a close friend or family member who had believed in a works/performance based perversion of Christianity? How might you help them to understand that true salvation is a complete trust in the finished work of Jesus?
- Are there any customs, traditions, or valued religious cultures/sacraments from your church heritage that need to be examined in light of Biblical truth...and with a view to legitimately conform all of our Christian beliefs to the truth of God's Word? What things would God have you to bravely call out as unbiblical, and possibly even of the Enemy?