

September 23rd – A Different Gospel

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Gal. 1:6-8)

Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians to contend against some who had come and perverted the true Gospel. The false teachers were called Judaizers, and they taught that unless people kept the law of Moses, they could not be saved. This question was actually taken up by the early church in Jerusalem. Speaking of Old Testament believers, Peter said, “We believe that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they” (Acts 15:11). In other words, the true Gospel is that humans – past, present, and future – can only be saved by faith in God.

Paul did not mince words. He said that a person – even an angel – should be condemned if he preached another gospel. Why was he so passionate about the false teachers? Because they were teaching a false gospel that would mislead people and prevent them from turning to Jesus in faith alone.

There are still many false teachers promoting a different gospel today. There are some who preach a prosperity gospel – that through faith in Jesus a person can be rich and receive all their heart desires. Others teach a social gospel – that the Christian life is not really about faith in Jesus, but helping to eliminate human suffering. And yes, there are still some who teach a works gospel – that we must do good works to earn our salvation. Don’t be deceived! There is only one Gospel – through faith alone in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection we can become children of God. All other “gospels” are to be rejected and refuted with the Good News of the Bible.