

Galatians 1:6-10

# Trouble In The Churches Of Galatia

- The problem
  - Perverted gospel being taught – 1:7
    - To pervert: to transform into something of an opposite character
  - Perverted gospel being received – 1:6
- The method
  - Judaizing teachers on the coattails of apostles
  - Attack on apostles' authority – 1:11
  - Deceptive words – 3:1
  - Ulterior motive – 6:12-13
- The result
  - Troubled – 1:7
  - Falling away – 5:4
  - So soon – 1:6

## The Christian can fall away

- Acts 13:48; 14:21-23; 16:6; 18:23
  - Gospel had been preached. They had obeyed it. On another visit, they had been exhorted to continue. On yet another visit, they had been strengthened again. But now they were turning away.
- More than just moral issues
  - “You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?” (5:7)
- Continued faithfulness is required
  - 5:1; 1 Corinthians 15:2
- Falling away – common problem
  - Israel: Hebrews 3:16-19
  - Jesus’ disciples: John 6:66
- Warned
  - Hebrews 3:12-13
  - 1 Corinthians 10:12

## The Christian must beware of a perverted gospel

- It's a big deal. Paul marveled – 1:6
- God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, heaven, and hell do not need to be removed in order to pervert the gospel
- Just as men perverted the commands of God in times of old, the gospel is often perverted through man's:
  - Additions
    - Acts 15:1, 5; Galatians 5:3; 4:10-11
    - Leviticus 10:1-2
    - 1 Corinthians 11:20-23
  - Subtractions
    - 1 Samuel 15:3, 9
  - Substitutions
    - 1 Kings 12:28-29, 32, 33
- Revelation 22:18-19

## The perverted gospels of 2024 include

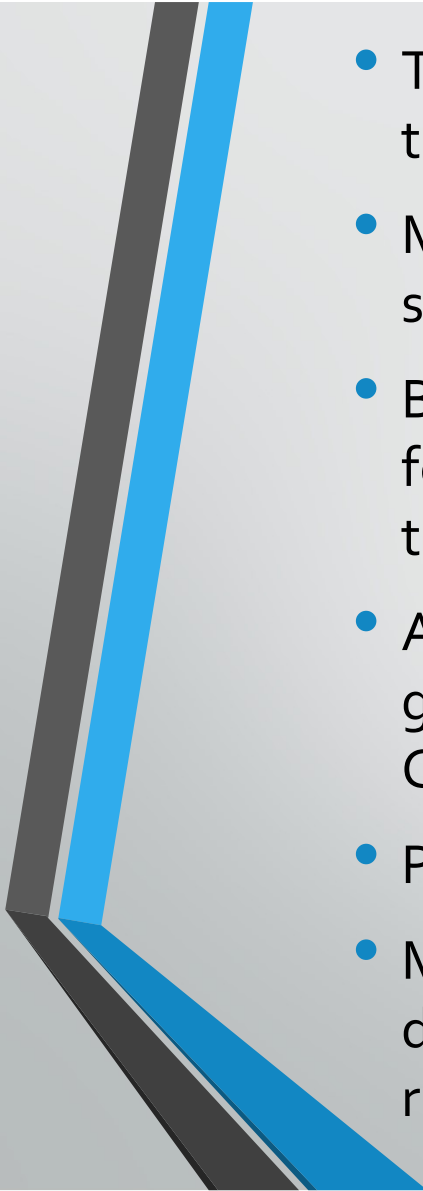
- Denominationalism
- All the churches are part of the one church Jesus built
- Baptism not essential to salvation
- Worship God in any way
- The social gospel
- Institutionalizing the church
- Women leading in the assembly
- Praise teams
- Musical instruments
- Grace that extends fellowship to those in error
- False teaching on divorce and remarriage

## The Christian must honor the apostles' doctrine

- The acid test
  - Luke 10:16; 1 John 4:6
- The apostles' doctrine is the doctrine of Christ
  - 1 Corinthians 14:37
- To go beyond is to not have God
  - 2 John 9
- No apostle, no angel, nor any man can change it
  - 1:8-9

## The Christian must honor the apostles' doctrine

- The teacher of the perverted gospel must be rejected, not tolerated
  - "Anathema" – 1:8-9
  - Romans 16:17
  - 2 John 10-11
  - Revelation 2:15
- Need to be grounded in the truth
  - Colossians 1:23; 2:5-10
- Diligence required
  - 2 Timothy 1:13; 2:15-16
  - 2 Peter 3:16

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- The teaching to the churches of Galatia is just as relevant today as then
  - Men today still appeal to the law of Moses for religious practice, such as instrumental music and Sabbath observance
  - But even if the law of Moses or circumcision has no appeal to us for religious practice, the principle remains that we must not add to nor take away from the pure gospel
  - A perverted gospel troubles souls, and to follow a perverted gospel is to turn away from God who called us into the grace of Christ
  - Perverted gospels are still the troubler of the Lord's church today
  - May we give diligence to learn the doctrine of Christ, the apostles' doctrine, so that we can identify perversions and so that we can remain faithful