

The Consequences of a Perverted Gospel

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). The gospel is composed of definite facts: the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4). The gospel also has the precise commands of repentance and baptism to be obeyed (Acts 2:38). What happens, though, if someone perverts the gospel of Christ? Just such a situation occurred among the churches of Galatia, and Paul addressed the problem, identifying the consequences resulting from a perverted gospel. Hear the words of the apostle:

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 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. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed (Gal. 1:6-9).

There are consequences which result from a perverted gospel. First, those who hear a perverted gospel may be removed from the grace of Christ. That is another way of saying if they abandon truth and proceed headlong into error and apostasy, they will be lost. Men can and do fall from grace, and if they embrace the error of a false teacher, they have! Peter, knowing this, wrote of his intent to call brethren into remembrance by his epistles and establish them in the present truth (2 Pet. 1:12). To be removed from the grace of Christ is to place one's soul in jeopardy of eternal punishment.

Second, when the gospel is perverted there are those who are troubled. We have known people in the past who have been taught the faithful word of God, apparently obeyed it, but then been convinced by a denominational preacher from their past to abandon the truth of the gospel and return to the religious error from whence they came. Those poor individuals became confused, did not know what to believe, lost faith in simple Bible truth, and fell away. Those who are babes in Christ need to seek the sincere milk of the Word that they may one day be numbered among the strong who are those that by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil (Heb. 5:14).

Third, one who does the perverting of the gospel faces dreaded consequences as well. "Let him," Paul says, "be accursed." There are many things which will bring upon one the wrath of God. Surely, close to the top of the list would be to change His Word. In fact, there are warnings all through the Bible against doing that. One warning appears close to the beginning of the Bible (Deut. 4:2), one close to the center of it (Prov. 30:6), and one right at the end (Rev. 22:18,19). Paul would later warn Timothy that the time would come when men would depart from the faith, teach doctrines of devils, and speak lies in hypocrisy (1 Tim. 4:1,2). These will have believed in and spoken their error so long that their consciences will no longer even bother them about it. What a dreadful condition!

Later, in Galatians 5:9, Paul warns these fast removing from the gospel brethren, that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. In other words, when perversions of the gospel occur they spread. Oft times they spread quickly and far and wide. The horrible reality is that the leaven

working via the doctrines of men has turned millions of persons away from the truth of the gospel. Even now perversions are turning members of the church of Christ away from the truth and turning them to the creeds, fables, dogmas, and the subjective agnosticism of men. Let us hold faithfully to the gospel, and not be moved by every wind of doctrine executed by the sleight of men in cunning craftiness who lie in wait to deceive (Eph. 4:14).

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