

Galatians 1: Another Gospel 3-16-14

Galatians chapter 1 begins with Paul admonishing the Galatians for making another Gospel. He then describes his personal encounter with the Gospel, the true Gospel, which has the power to save.

Paul describes himself as a "true" Hebrew. "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee" (Philippians 3:5). We read of his conversion and subsequent experience recounted in Galatians 1 in Acts 10:20-28. If there is anyone who could testify:

- That Judaism was not truth
- That the Law of Moses was annulled
- That circumcision was meaningless

It was Saul of Tarsus!

Paul tells us about a new religion, the New Religion of Judaism. That word "Judaism" has not appeared before in Scriptures; Paul is suggesting that it is a new religion, because it is not the legal observation of the law of Moses. For one thing, that law's authority ended at the cross. Therefore, it was not the law of Moses that was being followed, but something else. Too, Paul will suggest that even before Christ the Law of Moses was ABSENT the Promises original to it; they had been lost 500 years before. A Law without promises is a CURSE (Galatians 3:10,13)

The Galatian Dilemma (Galatians 5:2-4) was the issue of Circumcision. It is NOT a sin to be circumcised, but it IS a sin to make the Law of Christ. Circumcision was a slight matter of liberty; adding things to law is ANOTHER GOSPEL.

The Galatian Dilemma teaches us that adding the things of the Old Testament to the Law of Christ make ANOTHER GOSPEL. Today there are a number of "old" things added to the law of Christ that create another Gospel:

- Adding clergy or holy places
- Adding the Sabbath or Passover or days
- Adding the promised land
- Adding instrumental music

We need to understand that even small changes make another gospel. The Old testament is full of examples of how "little things" caused great destruction. We have the example of Moses and the rock in Numbers 20:11. We have Nadab & Abihu in Leviticus 10:1. Even small changes make another gospel; things like churches supporting institutions, having fellowship halls or churches in cooperation may seem like small potatoes, but they are deadly. As well, it does not matter WHO misleads us; in I Kings 13 a man of God was misled in a "little things" by another prophet; it cost him his life.

In the end, Salvation is your responsibility. You must ensure you are obedient to the entire Gospel, and have neither added to nor taken from that truth.