

Exploring Galatians – Study 2 – Troublers of the Church

Read Gal 1:6-9.

George Knight describes this as a brutal scriptural paragraph. In which ways is it brutal?

““These words,” writes G. G. Findlay, “were well calculated to startle the Galatians out of their levity. They are like a lightning-flash which shows one to be standing on the edge of a precipice” (Findlay, p. 35).”

How would you describe this “other gospel” Paul is describing?

“In its context in Galatians 1:6, it is desertion from the very thing that saved them (God’s grace in Christ) to a different way of salvation”.

Read Gen 4:1-7. It says, “And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell”. What does this mean and why did God have “regard” for one offering and not the other?

Read Gen 4:10 and Heb 12:24. What is meaning of “the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel”?

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“For Paul, any addition to the gospel of God’s free grace made it no gospel at all. It was rather a total perversion of the gospel (Gal. 1:7). The word translated as “perversion” can also mean “to reverse.” With that meaning in mind, we see that the false teachers were not merely corrupting the gospel, but reversing it, turning it about from its preordained mission. To preach such a doctrine eroded the very heart of the Christian message. After all, Paul will say later, “if justification were through the law, then Christ died to no purpose” (Gal. 2:21, RSV). In short, to add anything to grace as God’s way of justification is to destroy the very idea of grace itself. From his perspective, God’s justification in Christ is not a bargain between Him and human beings, but a gift. Thus the seemingly harmless additions of the Judaizers in actual fact negated the entire gospel message.”

“the Judaizers were instructing Gentile believers that accepting Christ by faith was not enough to be justified, that they as Gentiles had to be circumcised and observe the Jewish law if they wanted to be a part of God’s covenant people. The aspect that Paul fought was their teaching that the preaching of Christ alone was insufficient for their salvation, that they needed to add their works to that of Christ.”

Why is the above critical and important for today?

How do we understand Grace and Works for the Believer?

What are the differences? What is the relationship of each to the other for the Believer?

In Conclusion

Read Acts 15:19-21. How is this related to the other Gospel Paul talks about?

Read John 13:6-11. What is Jesus meaning with this analogue and how is that relevant for us today?

Can we have assurance of salvation today? Discuss?

There is no other good news than that of salvation through Jesus Christ (see Acts 4:12). Paul was preaching that men are saved by faith, apart from the works of the law. Any attempt to superimpose works on faith as a means of salvation is a perversion of the gospel, because it denies both the necessity and the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice".¹

¹ Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1980). [*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*](#) (Vol. 6, p. 938). Review and Herald Publishing Association.