

Another Gospel?

Chase Green

In Galatians 1:6-7a, Paul writes, “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...” The Galatian brethren had been “bewitched” (Gal. 3:1) into believing the Judaizing “version” of the gospel, which was no true gospel at all. In placing their faith in the works of the Law of Moses, and continuing to demand observance of that Law, the Judaizers had become guilty of promoting a new religion entirely, under the guise of the true gospel.

Paul uses two Greek words translated as “another” in this passage. The first (in verse 6) is “heteros,” defined by Thayer’s as “another: i.e. one not of the same nature ... different” (emphasis mine throughout, TCG). The second “another” is the Greek word “allos,” (verse 7), defined by Vine’s as “another of the same sort.”

The distinction between these two Greek words gives the precise meaning that Paul intended. Paul couldn’t believe that the Galatians had so quickly been removed from the grace of Christ unto another Gospel of a different sort, when it should have been apparent that there WAS no other Gospel of the same sort! The Judaizing false teachers had duped these brethren into following an entirely different religion, and they didn’t even realize it!

Undoubtedly, these people would have still thought of themselves as Christians and standing in the grace of Christ, but Paul would write that they were “fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4). Paul lists the reason for this being that they were seeking to be justified by the Law of Moses. The Bible is clear that the Law of Moses could not justify man; in fact, it did just the opposite — it CONVICTED man of His sins (See 2 Corinthians chapter 3). The Law of CHRIST (also known as “the perfect Law of Liberty,” James 1:25 & 2:12) is what makes justification possible, because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ! That is way this Law is referred to as the “better covenant which was established upon better promises” (Heb. 8:6).

While it is still technically possible that some people are being deceived by Judaizers holding to works of the Old Law today (and in recent years I have seen some of this), more times than not, the false gospels (of a different [heteros] kind, which there IS no other of the same [allos] kind) that are prevalent today involve the false doctrine of “faith only.” But this is just as condemning as the other extreme!

Those who teach such are taking all the responsibility of man’s obedience away, and replacing it with the most basic definition of “faith,” (belief only), even though the New Testament is FULL of passage that insist man must obey God (See Mat. 7:19, 21; Luke 6:46-49; John 14:15; Heb. 5:9; and many other passages). The Bible is clear that man MUST obey the Gospel (Rom. 10:16; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Pet. 4:17). The Bible clearly teaches that Christians MUST grow and develop the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; 3:18). All of this is abundantly clear, but sadly many people accept a pseudo-Christianity (a pseudo-gospel!) known as this doctrine of “faith ONLY.” It is very sad, and it can be easily disproven by one verse (See James 2:24), yet countless millions of people continue to believe that as long as they believe in Christ, everything else will fall into place, regardless of whether or not they actually OBEY Him! This is a false gospel, and one that will cause many to be sadly and unexpectedly condemned on the Day of Judgment. May we warn them of the Truth before it’s too late!