

GALATIANS

CHAPTER 1:1-9
THE GOSPEL

Today's Lesson

1. Galatians Chapter 1:1-9
2. What is the One True Gospel?
3. The Gospel Challenge

Introduction

Judaizers

- “Shadow teachers”
 - Probably presented message as the full understanding of the gospel
 - Attacked Paul’s gospel message and his character
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- Whenever teachers imply that you can contribute anything to your own salvation, the One True Gospel is being corrupted.

Identification of Author & Recipients (vv 1-2)

¹Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— ² and all the brothers who are with me,
To the churches of Galatia:

apostle “one sent with a message”

- Jesus chose 12 of his followers to be apostles during his ministry
 - Personally chosen by Jesus; authorized to teach in his name
- Paul was visited by the risen Jesus and became an apostle

Paul is defending:

- Origin of his apostleship
- Apostleship in general

Statement of Greeting (verses 3-5)

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

“present age”

God’s rule not fully established
and evil persists

“coming age”

God completes rule as King

Christ’s death and resurrection allows us to live under God’s rule in the present age.

Introduction (verses 6-7)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

“deserting” – in Greek – to transfer one’s allegiance

“different gospel” Acts 15:1 - But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved”.

Introduction (cont'd) (verses 8-9)

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

“accursed” (anathema) – to offer up for destruction, to curse or to ban

Paul’s repeated statement:

- Emphasizes the importance of the fact that there is only one gospel
- Anathematizes (curses or condemns) anyone teaching a different/fake gospel
 - Includes himself, angels from heaven or anyone else

Summary of Main Points (verses 1-9)

- Paul is an apostle of Jesus Christ
- Paul received the gospel from Jesus Christ and God the Father
- There is only One True Gospel

What is the One True Gospel?

Gospel Meaning and First Use in Scripture

GOSPEL (in Greek the “euangelion”) means:
the “good news” or “good tidings”

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the **gospel** of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Matthew 4:23

The Eternal Gospel

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Revelation 14:6-7

The Eternal One True Gospel

- The gospel (“good news”) is that the Lord has offered us salvation through the forgiveness of sins and righteousness that comes through faith.
- There has only been one gospel since Adam
 - preached in the Old Testament
 - saved individuals in the Old Testament
- From the beginning, the gospel was meant to go out to every nation and tribe and language and people (Jews and Gentiles)
- The gospel has never changed, it has only been more fully revealed

The Gospel Preached in the Old Testament

“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him.....” Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (Moses)

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted, He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives, And freedom to prisoners.....So they will be called
oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”
Isaiah 61:1-3

The Gospel saving in the Old Testament

“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Joel 2:32

“At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.” Genesis 4:26

“And there he (Abraham) built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.” Genesis 12:8

How were people saved prior to Christ?

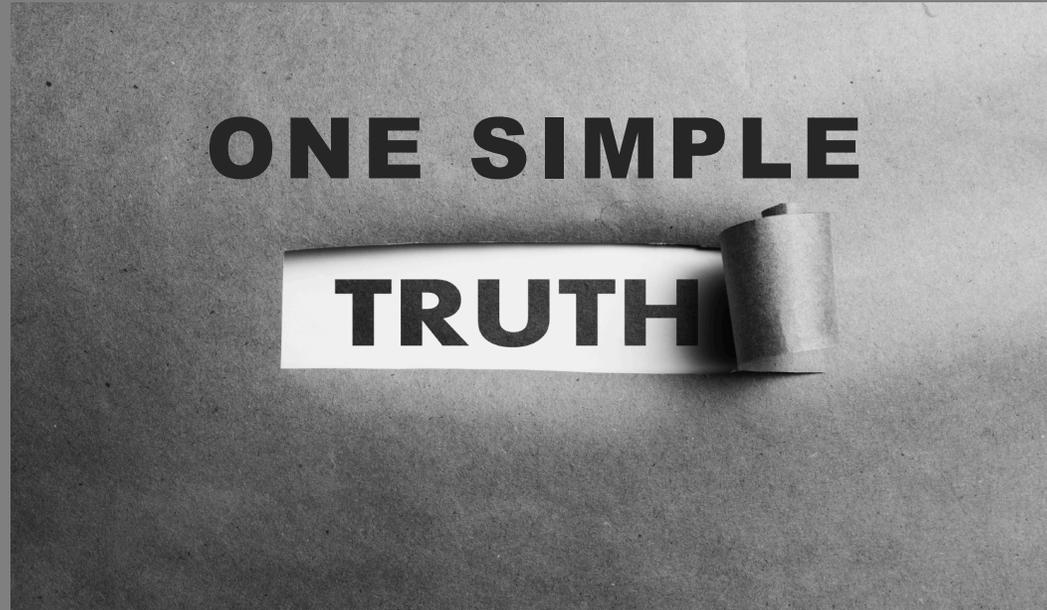
1. By faith, these men and women:
 - Called upon the name of the Lord
 - Believed, trusted and followed the Lord
 - Repented of sin
 - Relied on the Lord for everything
2. Through their faith, the Lord passed over/forgave their sins and they were credited with righteousness and set apart in Christ.

The Mystery of the Gospel

- The gospel itself was not a mystery; it has always been what has saved men and women from their sin.
- The mystery of the gospel was Christ and His work on the cross.
- For thousands of years, God was forgiving the sins (crediting righteousness) of those who had faith prior to Christ's birth.

Summary of the One True Gospel

- The gospel is that we are saved by God's grace through our faith.
- There has only been one gospel since Adam (eternal)
- From the beginning, the gospel was meant for everyone
- The gospel has never or will never change, it has only been more fully revealed in Jesus Christ



Since the beginning of time, there has only been One True Gospel by which you repent and trust in God for your salvation and follow Him in faith.

The Gospel Challenge

Reasons for Not Sharing the Gospel

- Spiritual Gifts
- What if someone asks me a question I don't know?
- What if someone rejects the gospel?

The Gospel Challenge

- Consider the circles in which you travel
- Pray about finding a specific person in your life
- Write down your testimony

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,”

Romans 1:16