

Introduction: When Good Things Become god-Things

We have spoken recently about *functional saviors*. These can be defined anything a person comes to rely upon (consciously or unconsciously) for identity, security, meaning, or deliverance, in place of or alongside Jesus Christ. We look to these functional saviors because we are prone to believe *functional gospels*, which are practical messages of “good news” about how we obtain these forms of “salvation.” To embrace a functional gospel is to believe, “This is what “saves” me, and this is how I get it.”

Main Point: Although there is only one _____ gospel, the world presents us with _____ gospels that, if embraced, will bring us into ruin.

Galatians 1:6-9

- Paul transitions from his greeting by directly addressing the _____ situation the Galatian churches find themselves in. (vv. 6-7)

(1) Paul begins to address the churches not with a word of commendation, but by expressing his _____ that the Galatians are turning away from the Lord.

“I am astonished”

“that you are so quickly deserting” –μετατίθημι (*metatithēmi*)—to have a change of mind in allegiance, to turn away

- The language recalls Israel’s unfaithfulness in the OT with the golden calf (Exod. 32:8) and in the time of the judges (Judges 2:17).

“him who called you”

“The words emphasize the unilateral nature of salvation: God calls, and humanity answers. God invites, and humanity responds. It speaks of God’s initiative, power, and grace compared to humanity’s inability and weakness.”- Michael Burer

(2) The danger they find themselves in is that they are turning from the true Gospel to a “_____” gospel.

“not that there is another one”

- There is, of course, only one genuine, saving Gospel.

The nature of the true Gospel is the _____ of God and He is also its _____!

The focus of the true Gospel is on the _____ and _____ of Christ!

Gal. 1:3-4a—3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins...

“there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ”

- The false teachers in their midst are preaching an _____ version of the true Gospel.

“trouble”

“distort”

- The false teachers are likely still _____ among the Galatian churches, threatening them with the judgment of God if they fail to practice the things that they were teaching.

Key Point: False teaching and false gospels further _____ the eyes of the unbelieving and introduce _____ into the minds and hearts of believers.

- Paul’s response to the situation among the Galatian churches is to pronounce _____ upon any who would proclaim a false gospel. (vv. 8-9)

(1) Paul uses important OT language to emphasize the seriousness of what the false teachers are doing.

“let him be accursed”—ἀνάθεμα (*anathema*)—that which is dedicated as an offering; that which is cursed or is accursed

- The use in the OT is for the Hebrew *hērem*, meaning something delivered over to divine wrath for destruction. It is used of how to deal with the Canaanites (Deut. 20:16-18). These accursed things and people were dangerous because they could *defile* God’s people (Deut. 7:26), bringing God’s wrath upon them as well (Josh. 7:11-12).

Anyone who would preach a false gospel will be judged by God even as the _____ and unbelieving _____ had been.

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you”

- The first set of hypothetical preachers are _____ and his fellow _____.
- The second set of hypothetical preachers are “messengers” from heaven. (_____) **Angels played a role in revealing the OT Law (Gal. 3:19)**
Angelic beings are associated with false religions → _____, _____

(2) Paul intensifies his point by restating it and reminding the Galatians of his prior teaching.

“As we have said before, so now I say again:”

“If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received”

- The Galatians had _____ the true Gospel through the preaching of Paul and his fellow workers.

The true Gospel centers on the _____ of Christ’s work for salvation and cannot be added to or taken away from.

The true Gospel is received by _____ alone apart from the addition of works.

“Paul knows that certain individuals are in fact preaching something other than what the Galatians received from him. This condition then...serves as a judicial condemnation upon these preachers...and...subtly enjoins repentance from the Galatians.”
- Michael Burer

Key Points: 1. The wrath of God comes upon those who _____ false gospels.

2. Those who embrace false teachers and false gospels are _____ by them.

Paul’s Message to the Galatians

- The Galatians must quickly return to trusting in the true Gospel of God’s grace in Christ.
- The Galatians must reject the false teachers and the false gospel they proclaim lest they themselves fall under the wrath (active/passive) of God.

Concluding Thoughts

1. We face the reality of false gospels that are proclaimed within the wider, professing _____.

2. We face the reality of functional gospels that are proclaimed to us within the wider _____.

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Angels played a role in revealing the OT Law (Gal. 3:19)

Angelic beings are associated with false religions → Islam, Mormonism

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