

CORRUPTED CHRISTIANITY

INTRODUCTION: A couple days ago we held elections and no matter what the results, you will hear people crying out about corruption. There is no doubt that there is corruption in our government. The reason? It's run by people.

The biggest mistake the Israel nation ever made was when they demanded to have a King. This was a rejection of God being the ruler over them. **1 Samuel 8:7**

The biggest mistake we can make as a Christian is live our lives as if the Grace of Christ isn't good enough. It's not only a rejection of Christ. It's a rejection of God. **1 Thessalonians 4:7-8**

Galatians 1:6-10

I. RECOGNIZE DIFFERENT GOSPELS v.6

A. Paul is absolutely astonished that the Galatians are so quickly turning away from the truth.

1. He was literally shocked that it seemed to take very little persuasion for them to be deceived.
2. He sees this deception as a turning away from Christ.
3. He refers to this new teaching they had accepted as a different gospel.

B. They began in the grace of Christ.

1. Paul had come and preached the simple gospel message that Christ's death alone is what delivered us and saved us. **Galatians 1:4**
2. They were walking in the freedom of that message. **John 8:32, 36**
3. It was the Holy Spirit working through Paul that had called them to the grace of Christ.

C. They are now following after a gospel of works.

1. They were deceived into believing that if they followed Jewish law, they would reach a higher place of Christianity.
2. Later in the letter to the Galatians, he pinpoints a few of these practices.
3. Satan has used the deception of works to supposedly bring you into greater place of holiness from the very beginning of time. **Genesis 3:5**

II. AVOID THE TROUBLEMAKERS vv.7-9

- A. Paul considered the ones who were preaching this different gospel as detractors from the truth.
1. “Another” gospel comes from the Greek word “*heteros*” which means “of the same, but different”.
 2. It was a gospel that seemed to bring Jesus closer to you, but there was a catch.
 3. Today there are many believers who attempt to drag you into a works-oriented gospel.
- B. He tells them not to let anyone, angel or even himself preach something different. v.8
1. The Gospel message revolves around the finished work of Jesus on the cross.
 2. Peter rebuked Jesus for even saying that He must die. **Matthew 16:21-23**
 3. People add to the work of Jesus out of pride. **Ephesians 2:9**
- C. Paul says that such troublemakers should be accursed.
1. Accursed comes from the Greek word “*anathema*” which means to “ex-communicate” or be “doomed to destruction”.
 2. Paul is telling them to not fellowship with them and that they should be banned from their church.
 3. Jesus warns of the wolves in sheep’s clothing. **Matthew 7:15**

III. PLEASE GOD v.10

- A. Paul was not interested in simply persuading or pleasing men.
1. The Greek word for “persuade” is “*peitho*” which in essence means to “bring someone into agreement” for the purpose of self-gratification.
 2. Paul was in no way trying to preach himself, or lift up his name, but simply proclaim Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 4:5**
 3. This didn’t mean he wasn’t opposed to pleasing people, but that he did it only for the sake of their salvation. **1 Corinthians 10:33**

B. His goal was to simply please God.

1. Paul wanted to make sure that God was in agreement with what he said and did.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

2. It's easy to get caught up into the fallacy of pleasing men.

3. Just as Paul was, we are to be ambassadors for Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:20**

C. Paul saw himself as a slave to Christ and Christ alone. **Romans 1:1**

1. The Greek word for "bondservant" is "*doulos*" which means "to bind" or "a slave".

2. Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters. **Matthew 6:24**

3. This was the problem with the Judaizers. They were trying to be servants of both Jesus and the law.

CONCLUSION:

- 1) Recognize different gospels.
- 2) Avoid the troublemakers.
- 3) Please God.