



## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

*Walking in True Obedience...*

*READ GALATIANS 1: 6-9*

- God is the perfect designer and architect of all things and His eternal purpose for man is revealed in the Gospel.
- *Psalm 19:7-10* provides a powerful description of God's law but what does the word of God tell us about the Gospel.
- It is the Gospel of Christ as it concerns His incarnation, His earthly ministry, His sufferings and death, His resurrection and ascension.
- It is the power of God to save everyone who believes. (*Rom.1:16-17*) NLT
- The righteousness of Christ is imparted to each believer so that the blessings of perfect obedience to the law become a shared experience.
- Paul expressed his amazement at the swift desertion of Gospel truth on the part of the Galatian church.
- Did they fully recognize the error of their ways? Did they realize that they were under the influence of a different Gospel?
- We don't know for sure but we can be certain that Paul wasted no time with customary salutations and greetings in order to get them back on track.
- It is evident that they came under the influence of false teachers in the church who preached a salvation that was based on man's efforts at keeping God's law.
- This was a common problem in the early church as a similar thing happened in Corinth and Paul had to warn the church about receiving a different spirit and a different gospel. (*2 Cor.11:4*)
- *"For if someone comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."* (NASB)
- Paul reminded them that Satan can transform himself into an angel of light. (*2 Cor.11:13-14*)
- *"Those who add any additional requirements for salvation to faith in Jesus Christ, no matter how excellent their credential, twist the gospel into another form."* (Sproul) (American Gospel)

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## WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 29

- *“And there is salvation in no-one else, for there is no other Name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)*
- Absence of spiritual leadership in the church and lack of spiritual insight can cause a believer to go astray.
- Obedience to God is the way for each believer to follow but our obedience must never become a substitute or an addition to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- The different gospel was a gospel of works that required circumcision and observance of other laws given by Moses.
- Those who tried to live by this rule were bringing themselves under a curse. (Gal.3:10)  
*“But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again.” (Gal.4:9)*
- We Gentiles can also fall into the trap of a works-centred gospel by supposing that our standing before God is influenced in any way by prayer, fasting, baptism, spiritual gifts, The finished work of Jesus Christ does not require help from man.
- It is enough that he/she believes for salvation and then proceeds daily to live a life that is pleasing to God.
- Who are we to distort such a masterpiece, even if we think it expedient so that unbelievers may be attracted to our church.
- So we may think it necessary to dumb down the message because it is too radical, omit topics like sin, repentance, hell and judgment.
- We are on dangerous ground if we follow this pattern. So I have to ask the question again, who are we to tamper with such a perfect gospel.
- May we want to fit it in to some culture or class or creed. In *Gal. 1:8-9*, Paul uses the word anathema to declare emphatically and categorically that the Gospel he preaches is the one and only way to salvation and to preach or teach otherwise is to invalidate and nullify the death of Christ. (*Gal.2:21*)
- Anyone doing so will be eternally condemned because they are rejecting the perfect work of salvation.
- We can rejoice in a perfect salvation today because it does not depend on man. ■