

The Gospel of Christ

Beware of Spiritual Perverts!

Text Verse --- Gal. 1:7

Let's begin in verse 6:

Gal 1:6-7 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel of Christ**.

Just as 'normal' people are offended by physical perverts we ought to also avoid spiritual ones.

Clearly, in verse 7 it is possible to pervert the good news about Christ.

Paul did not preach Jesus in His earthly ministry (the way that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John used to preach Him in 'Times Past'):

2 Cor 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we **have known** Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth (*from now on*) know we him no more.

Paul preached Jesus as the risen, glorified Lord --- who had committed a body of truth to Paul for him to make known among the Gentiles:

Rom 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery**, which was kept secret since the world began,

The special ministry that God gave uniquely to Paul is called a dispensation:

1 Cor 9:16-17 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, **a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me**.

That dispensation God committed to Paul has a particular name. Look for it in:

Eph 3:1-5 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
 2 If ye have heard of **the dispensation of the grace of God** which is given me to you-ward:

3 How that **by revelation he made known unto me the mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ**)

5 Which **in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Yes, God **entrusted** the message of grace to Paul for us Gentiles:

1 Tim 1:11-14 According to **the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust**.

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Paul's personal authority --- given to him by God Almighty --- is plainly evident:

Titus 1:2-3 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

3 But hath **in due times** manifested his word through preaching, **which is committed unto me** according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

Several different terms are used to describe the gospel Paul was given.

We already read a few of them. Our session opened with:

our text verse of **Gal. 1:7** ---- where it is called the **gospel of Christ**.

In **1 Tim. 1:11** ---- it is the **glorious gospel of the blessed God**.

Next, we'll see this gospel referred to as the **gospel of the grace of God**:

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and **the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God**.

In Paul's epistle to the Roman saints, the gospel he preached is named **several different things**. In the very 1st verse of the letter, he opens with the **gospel of God**:

Rom 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

A few verses later, it is labeled the **gospel of His Son**:

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the **gospel of his Son**, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Then in verse 16, of this same chapter, it is also called the **gospel of Christ**.

Since THAT is what SAVES us --- we surely ought not be EMBARRASSED of it:

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

In chapter 2, God (writing through Paul) specifically says it is Paul's gospel

there Paul calls it **MYgospel** because it is the gospel that God gave to him:

Rom 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to **my gospel**.

In chapter 15, the **gospel of Christ** is inter-changed again:

Rom 15:19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the **gospel of Christ**.

.... AND Paul's gospel was **UNIQUE to him**, as the next verse here in chapter 15 teaches. Here he refers to it 'plain-like' as simply **the gospel**:

Rom 15:20 Yea, so have I strived to preach **the gospel**, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

Then the term **gospel of Christ** is used again:

Rom 15:29 And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the **gospel of Christ**.

God is careful to single out Paul's 'basement structure' from the others:

1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, **I have laid the foundation**, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

Getting back to the book of Romans, as we were looking through it to see the various terminology there, Paul used the term 'my gospel' another time in the last chapter:

Rom 16:25 Now to him that is of power **to stablish you** according to **my gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

Paul makes the same claim again in his 2nd epistle to Timothy ... that it's **his gospel**:

2 Tim 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to **my gospel**:

Yes, it is by the message that the Apostle Paul preached that we have peace, understanding, and stability in our lives:

1 Thess 3:2-3 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the **gospel of Christ**, **to establish you**, and **to comfort you** concerning your faith:

3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

Preaching Paul's gospel cost him --- not money --- but persecution:

2 Cor 1:5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

It did the same for the Corinthian saints. Drop down to verse 7:

2 Cor 1:7 And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as **ye are partakers of the sufferings**, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

Timothy was encouraged to share in the problems, for the gospel's sake and like Rom. 1:16 we already read not to be embarrassed about it:

2 Tim 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but **be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel** according to the power of God;

Paul prepared Timothy for the suffering ahead:

2 Tim 4:5 But watch thou in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Paul's gospel is specifically identified again, in his epistle to the saints at Galatia:

Gal 2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them **'THAT' gospel which I preach among the Gentiles**, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

So we see that Paul himself recognized the DISTINCTIVENESS of his message.

The issue of the NAME of Paul's gospel is basically the same thing as

the issue of the NAME of the Lord's Day (in my previous message) being

called

- the day of Christ
- the day of our Lord Jesus Christ
- the day of the Lord Jesus
- the day of Jesus Christ
- the day of the Lord.

He is one and the same person it will be HIS day.

Today, we're studying about one and the same gospel Christ's gospel the gospel God gave and committed to Paul.

Just like, God called HIS law -- Moses' law -- because God gave it through Moses:

Heb 10:28 He that despised **Moses' law** died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Jesus also called the law of God -- the law of Moses:

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in **the law of Moses**, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

The gospel Paul preached is THE very message that the Devil hates. It made a public spectacle of Satan it embarrasses him:

Col 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;
 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The accomplishments God made by the cross, the gospel that He committed to Paul to make known, really puts Satan to shame:

1 Cor 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. (that's found in Job 5:13).

The message of Paul's gospel shows the Devil up to be a fool the very thing he did to foil God's prophetic purpose back-fired on him to his own undoing and it is revealed through the mystery given to Paul:

1 Cor 2:6-8 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:
 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:
 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

We, the Body of Christ, show forth God's wisdom to the angels:

Eph 3:9-11 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Since Satan is so disgraced by the gospel of Christ, he tries to HIDE it:

2 Cor 4:3-4 But **if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of **the glorious gospel of Christ**, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

It's important for US to preach the gospel the D-B-R as simply as it is:

1 Cor 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached unto you**, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures;

4 And that **he was buried**, and that **he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures:

The title of this message says to **Beware of Spiritual Perverts**, and in closing, we say again, that it is possible for people to be deceived with the gospel:

2 Cor 11:3-4 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4 For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Therefore, we need to be careful to be CLEAR about the gospel we preach:

Phile 1:6 **That the communication of thy faith may become effectual** by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"