

Galatians: *Paul's Gospel Defense* (Part 1)

Jerry Cisar—November 4, 2007

Galatians 1:1-9; 3:1

I. What made the Galatians foolish?

- *entertaining a different Gospel which is no Gospel*

- *to desert the Gospel is to desert God (1:6)*

What made the Galatians foolish was that they had forsaken the grace-foundations of the Gospel which had been laid, and therefore were forsaking the One who called them by the grace of the Gospel.

II. The essential character and true purpose of the Gospel

A. The **essential character** of the Gospel is grace.

The only basis of our having grace from God, and peace with God is through this specific kind of grace.

- Romans 5:1-2

The essential character of the Gospel is grace procured through the work of Christ!

B. The **Gospel's purpose** is to rescue us from the power of this present evil age.

- **Acts 12:11** *"Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and **rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating.**"*

We are rescued from the clutches, the power of this present evil age by Christ's redemption; from its power to control us, to determine the course of our life.

A false gospel cannot do the task for which God designed the real gospel.

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- Why do you think the Galatians were so quickly enticed by a different Gospel? How strong is the foundation of the Gospel in your life? Would Paul be surprised at how quickly you might be enticed into something else?
- Have you ever thought about the fact that you need to be rescued from the power of this present evil age?
- Which age is determining the course of your life, which age is controlling your affairs: this present evil age, or the eternal age to come?
 - Can you think of specific ways the present evil age attempts to control your life?
 - Can you think of specific ways the eternal age directs the course of your life? ...ways you "sow to the Spirit" and from the Spirit reap the "life of the eternal age"?
- Was Paul's attitude toward teachers of a false Gospel inclusive? Was it, to use today's terminology, *broad-minded* or *tolerant*? Explain your answer.
- What kinds of doctrines call for this kind of clarity and distinction, and which kinds call for unity or broad-mindedness?
- What does Galatians 2:21 tell us about the kind of false teaching the Galatians were receiving?
- Compare 1 Peter 1:14-15 with Galatians 5:16-17, 24 (remember that where the NIV uses the words "sinful nature" it is best to read, "flesh"). What does each say about our desires? What does each say about how we are to live?