

No Other Gospel; Galatians 1:6-9

- I. Called
 - a. Galatians 1:6 (ESV) ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—
 - b. This is one of those words that can be so misunderstood
 - i. We take it to mean that when we feel something strongly, we are called to do it (missions, preaching, professions, etc.)
 - ii. Called – to identify by name or attribute, *call, call by name, name* ¹
 - iii. Our feelings have nothing to do with God calling us (by name)
 - iv. 2 Thessalonians 2:13–15 (ESV) ¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.
 - v. The Gospel calls each one of us by name (remember, God created us and our identity)
 - c. We obey the Gospel, God adds us to the Body of Christ, and we start the mission God has prepared for us
- II. Desertion
 - a. Somewhere along the way, we run into challenges
 - b. It is these challenges that tend to define our Christianity – we grow stronger, or we desert Him who called us
 - c. Desertion is not a 21st century problem like some of us think
 - i. This problem existed in the first century only 20 years after the beginning of the Church (Galatians was written between 48AD-55AD) – verse 6, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him...”
 - ii. Hebrews continues this theme of desertion; it was written between 60AD-70AD
 - d. But the problem of desertion continues into the 21st century
 - i. Our challenges give us 2 choices; grow or desert
 - ii. We all know people that have let their challenges make a shipwreck of their faith
 - iii. One of the questions I always get during these times is, “how can a loving God kill men, women, children, animals, etc.”
 - iv. Deuteronomy 20:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, ¹⁷ but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 502.

Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded,

- v. The Canaanites were not innocent people just living their lives – they practiced child sacrifice, incest, adultery, temple prostitution
- vi. “The Canaanites were not innocent; they were morally bankrupt and incorrigible in their wickedness” Dr. John Currid, Chancellor’s Professor of Old Testament, Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi
- vii. Genesis 15:15–16 (ESV) ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
- viii. God spent over 400 years trying to win the Canaanites back (the Bible often refers to any or all of the people living in the land of Canaan as Canaanites)
- ix. Here is the moral and just reason for God’s actions
- x. Deuteronomy 20:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.
- xi. It is worth it to note that even Israel was not above God’s judgment
- e. Either we accept God’s word as truth, or we let our feelings get in the way and desert the only loving compassionate God that truly wants us to be with Him

III. Distortion

- a. Many times, we choose to distort God’s word; so His hard choices don’t seem so bad to us
- b. Galatians 1:7 (ESV) ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.
- c. We have to consider God’s very character and nature; as one of love and justice when looking at His decisions
 - i. Our own society has had to make the hard choices, incarceration for life, the death penalty, etc.
 - ii. We make **difficult** choices when it comes to the discipline of our own children – what happens to children with no discipline?
 - iii. We choose effective consequences for their actions
 - iv. Abraham bargained with God over the consequences for Sodom and Gomorra and succeeded
 - v. God’s choice in creation had consequences – He knew we would sin
 - vi. And in that choice, God decided the solution would be to sacrifice Himself
- d. Throughout the Bible, all of God’s choices led Him to the cross, His sacrifice for us
 - i. Yet we would question a decision He made thousands of years ago against a morally corrupt, wicked people who sacrificed their children to a false god
 - ii. We would change God’s word to fit societies morality
 - iii. Just look at society and see how moral it is (it really isn’t)
 - iv. Distorting the Gospel for our own benefit, to soothe hurt feelings over God’s decisions, comes with its own consequences
 - v. Galatians 1:8–9 (ESV) ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

- vi. In the end, there is only one reason we distort the Gospel
- vii. Galatians 1:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

IV. The Gospel

- a. God's love for us is complete, lacking in nothing
- b. God's love is selfless, even sacrificing Himself for us
- c. Romans 5:8–11 (ESV) ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
- d. Why would we desert God or distort the Gospel?
- e. It is the Gospel that calls us