

## **The True And False Gospel** **By Pastor Art Watkins**

In Galatians 1:6-9 Paul wrote: ***I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

Every false teacher and cult in America professes to believe a gospel today, but they are still lost. Why? They believe the wrong one. You can believe in a gospel and still be lost, if the gospel you believe is the wrong one. The devil has a gospel for every taste, appeal, appetite, ego, religion and pocketbook. If you can't find a gospel you like, he will customize one just for you.

There is only **one Gospel** that has the power to save you from sin and hell today and it's the one that Christ and the apostles preached. All other Gospels are false and those who preach them are accursed according to these verses.

The gospel the apostles preached is called the Gospel of Grace and Gospel of Christ. There are four outstanding facts about this gospel.

**(A.) *It declares that men are saved by faith alone in the death and shed blood of Christ.***

See Rom. 4:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5

**(B.) *It declares that God forgives all sins and all sinners.***

This means there is no unpardonable sins or sinners today.

See Acts 13:39-39

**(C.) *It declares that salvation is a present possession, not a future attainment.***

See 2 Timothy 1:9, Ephesians 2:8, Titus 3:5, Romans 5:11.

**(D.) *It declares that all believers are unconditionally and eternally secure in Christ.***

See Ephesians 1:13, 4:40, 1 Corinthians 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Philippians 1:6

These are four of the most important facts about the Gospel of the Grace of God. If you have believed this gospel you will believe these four facts. And if you do

not believe them, you have not believed the true gospel, and you are either lost, or you are deceived like the Galatians.

This means:

\*Any man who preaches works are necessary to gain or to keep salvation is a false teacher.

\*Any man who preaches that there are unpardonable sins or sinners God cannot save today is a false teacher.

\*Any man who preaches that salvation is a future reward and not a present possession is a false teacher.

\*Any man, who preaches you can lose your salvation and must do certain works to keep it, is a false teacher.

The true gospel of grace is made up of the sum total of its parts. It declares these four facts and any man or church that preaches a gospel that contradicts them is preaching a false gospel. The man that does not preach the Gospel of Grace is cursed and a church that does not preach it is apostate and God said to stay away from them.

## **The True and False Gospel**

***2 Corinthians 11:4: 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.***

The other gospel Paul warned about is Satan's gospel. It's a perversion of the true one preached by Christ and the apostles. What is the difference between the true and false gospel?

\*The true gospel declares that all men are totally corrupt before God and unable to please God in the flesh no matter what they do.

Satan's gospel declares that there is good in every man and all he needs to do is cultivate it until it blossoms.

\*The true gospel declares that without the shedding of blood God cannot forgive any sin.

Satan's gospel is a bloodless gospel. It offers forgiveness without a blood sacrifice. It is a self atonement gospel that says you atone for your own sins by the works you do in this life.

\*The true gospel declares that because man is totally ruined what he needs is a new birth.

Satan's gospel declares that what man needs is education, cultivation, refinement, reform and more religion.

\*The true gospel declares that salvation cannot be earned by works.

Satan's gospel is a gospel of works such as; taking the 7 sacraments, going to Mass, water baptism, tithing, law keeping, doing penance, charitable works, reform and self improvement.

\*The true gospel declares that Christ is God and that salvation is only in the death and shed blood of Christ.

Satan's gospel emphasizes Christ's deeds of compassion and works of mercy and the beauty of his character and teaching. Satan's gospel eulogizes his life, but it ignores his death for sin. Christ's atoning work on the cross is never mentioned in Satan's gospel. It is a bloodless gospel and a cross less Christ.

\*The true gospel declares that God cannot and will not forgive your sins until someone pays the penalty for them.

Satan's gospel declares that God will forgive your sins no matter if they are paid for or not.

\*The true gospel declares that without salvation men will spend eternity suffering in the fires of hell.

Satan's gospel declares that hell is a myth and a superstition and that a loving God would never create such a place, much less cast anyone into it.

\*The true gospel declares both the love of God and the wrath of God.

Satan's gospel declares the love of God only. It never mentions the wrath of God for it says it does not exist.

\*The true gospel declares that God saves bad people by his grace.

Satan's gospel declares that God saves good people by their works. It says if you become good enough God will save you. You become good enough to be saved by the works you do in this life.

\*The true gospel offers men a "know so" salvation.

Satan's gospel offers men a "hope so" salvation. No one knows if they are saved or not when they believe Satan's gospel.

\*The true gospel declares that you must have God's righteousness to enter into the kingdom of God for you have none of your own.

Satan's gospel declares men who do good works are righteous and their own righteousness can get them into the kingdom of God.

\*The true gospel declares no one has ever or will ever receive eternal life by keeping laws and commandments.

Satan's gospel declares that you can earn eternal life by the laws and commandments he gives you to keep.

\*The true gospel declares that saving faith is total faith in Christ alone for salvation.

Satan's gospel declares that saving faith is divided between faith and works.

\*The true gospel declares that saving grace is the gift of God and not of works.

Satan's gospel declares that the grace that saves is received by works such as taking the sacraments.

\*The true gospel declares that God did all the works necessary to save you and keep you saved.

Satan's gospel declares God did not do all the works necessary to save us and keep us saved. We must participate in our salvation. God did his part and now we must do ours and if we do, we will be finally saved if we continue to do the works we are supposed to do to the end of our life.

God did his part and now we must do ours. It's salvation by the installment plan. Christ made the down payment and we must pay the notes.

\*The true gospel says that all sins are forgiven and remitted the moment a person believes.

Satan's gospel says all sins are not forgiven or blotted out and remitted the moment a person believes the gospel. It's the church and its priests and leaders who forgive sins. You must come to them for forgiveness and absolution of your sins.

\*The true gospel declares that salvation is the gift of God.

Satan's gospel declares that salvation is not a gift of God, but a reward earned by a life time of works. It is not free, for it is conditional upon the works the church prescribes for men to do after they believe. According to Satan's gospel, works are as much a part of salvation as faith. Faith is not enough. According to it no one can be saved without works or kept saved without works.

\*The true gospel declares that the believer is secured eternally because of the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ.

Satan's gospel declares that no one is secured eternally because of the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ. His security is based upon the works he does in his life. As long as he is faithful and does the works the church tells him to do, he is secure. It's a conditional security based upon the works he does

in his life, till the end of his life. Hence, no one can know for sure they are saved until they get to the end of their life.

\*The true gospel declares that all charges against the believer are cancelled out by the cross

Satan's gospel declares that all charges against the believer are not cancelled out by the cross the moment he believes Satan's gospel. His gospel says a believer can be charged and penalized to hell forever for his sins after he believes. According to Satan's gospel a man who professes to believe in Christ can be cast into hell later if he does not do the works the church gives him to do.

\*The true gospel declares that the moment a man believes all of the merits of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross are put to his account.

Satan's gospel says that the moment a person believes all of the merits of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross are not put his account. According to Satan's gospel we must come to the church to receive the merits of Christ's death. The church and its priests and leaders are the ones God entrusted the merits of Christ's death and they and they alone have the power to distribute them to men.

\*The true gospel declares that all of the righteousness of God is imputed to the believer when he believes and he now has all the righteousness necessary to save him forever.

Satan's gospel declares that all of God's righteousness is not put to the believers account and if he needs more righteousness to get into heaven he can borrow from the "bank of the martyrs" and the Faithfull's righteousness.

\*The true gospel declares that Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

Satan's gospel declares there are many ways to God and one is as good as the other.

Whose gospel have you believed? When it comes to salvation sincerity does not count but accuracy does. There are many people who sincerely believe in a gospel today, but are still lost because they have believed the wrong one. For 20 years my wife sincerely believed the gospel preached to her by the Catholic Church but she was lost because she had believed the wrong gospel. The gospel they taught her is the same one you hear in many so called Protestant churches also. It's the gospel that says that even though Christ died for your sins, his death and shed blood is not sufficient by itself to save you, but that you must do certain works along with believing to be saved. That's a deadly gospel and if you believe it you will end up in hell. It does not matter how sincere a person is or how devoted they are or how many good works they have done, if you believe the wrong gospel you will end up in hell.

You need to exam the gospel you have believed today. Make sure it is the right one. The right one is the one the apostles preached. It says that Christ died for all your sins and by faith and faith alone in his death and shed blood God will save you eternally from sin, hell and the lake of fire.

We do not have to be in dark concerning false teachers and apostate churches. We can separate the tears from wheat, the sheep from the wolves, and the true from the false by the gospel they preach.

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