

Fueling Station 8

Pitfall: “Another Gospel”



It is our belief that a significant portion of the church has struggled with “another gospel”. In fact, the Apostle Paul had a strong fear that this would be the case even in his lifetime.

“for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.”
Acts 20:27-31 ESV

The whole counsel of God was the gospel of grace to the kingdom of God. This gospel has changed and been made more palatable by excluding or confusing the “race” part of the gospel. We believe that the only “part” of the gospel that has been taught or at least the main focus, has been the good news that Jesus died to forgive our sins and promised us a place in heaven. Hopefully after this article you will understand the fear Paul has for the church in accepting “another gospel”.

“For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.”
2 Corinthians 11:4 ESV

*Paul had to deal in some way with all seven churches he wrote epistles to with allowing false teaching and sin into Gods house. The Corinthian church was no exception and probably led the way. Looking at Paul's reason for writing to the Corinthian church members, that they had adopted the ways of Corinth into Gods Household, he is reminding them of the gospel given to them. This gospel was the power to live a "crucified" life, a life pleasing to God, pursuing holiness in the fear of the Lord!

"For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 ESV

*Note that this gospel is for the power of "being" saved, which we have identified as "sanctification salvation".

"And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,"

1 Corinthians 1:30 ESV

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

1 Corinthians 2:2-5 ESV

*Paul is belaboring his point that the gospel is the power of God to save us from a life of sin to a life of righteousness!

"But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:1 ESV

*The entire reason Paul is reminding them what the "true" gospel is was because they were living like babies in the gospel.

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 ESV

*This gospel must be lived out by way of obedience otherwise we believed "in vain".

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:56-58 ESV

*This labor is what the gospel of grace gives us the power for! To live a sanctified, “set apart” life for God and not experience the ‘sting’ of death under a powerless old covenant law.

“I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

1 Corinthians 16:21-24 ESV

*It becomes very telling to the church how Paul signs off in his letter 1st letter to the Corinthians. Paul understands that only a curse awaits those who do not live by the true understanding of the gospel of grace!

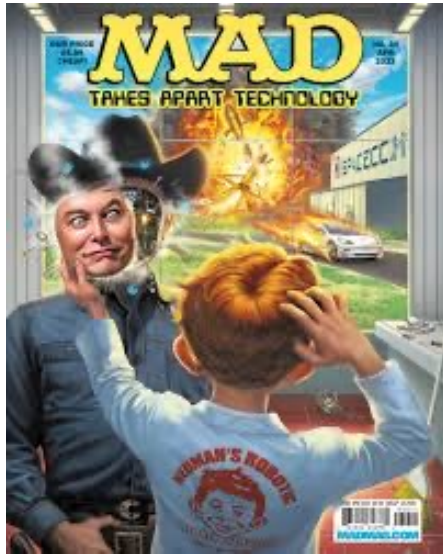
“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when (until) your obedience is complete. For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-6, 14, 18 ESV

*Please notice that approval is merited by using Gods power for obedience!



Please notice that all of these verses about the gospel have led us full circle to “another gospel”:



“For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.”

2 Corinthians 11:4 ESV

*In summary: Any other understanding of the gospel other than the one given by Paul is proclaiming “another Jesus”, a “different spirit”, and a “different gospel”! This should wake the church that has accepted this “twisted” teaching to get back into the race to the Kingdom!

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”

1 Peter 4:12-19 ESV

*obeying the real gospel goes way beyond a one time profession of faith in our Lord and Savior. Hopefully you can now make sense of all the warning passages to the church whom Jesus purchased with His own blood!

What is the “eternal” gospel?:



“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Revelation 14:6-7 ESV

*The everlasting gospel preached by an angel of God is in exact agreement with the gospel to the churches proclaimed by the Apostles!

Questions for reflection:

1. How would you have defined the “good news” when you first became a Christian?
2. How have you changed or adapted that viewpoint now?
3. Understanding that the “good news” is that Jesus made a “way” for us to inherit the promises of His kingdom, and that we have a significant role to play in that, how does that make you feel?
4. Have you ever considered that anything other than this understanding of this “gospel” is not the same Jesus? What are the implications of this?
5. Looking at the passage below, notice the word “race” and the word “grace” and how they are in reference to sanctification and inheritance. Then notice how the word grace carries the word race inside of it. Do you believe this to be coincidental or by design? Explain.

*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!

Extra Scriptural support:

Acts 20:23-25,29, 31

“Except that the holy spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things distract me, nor do i count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. “ And indeed, now I know that you all, among who I have gone preaching the kingdom of God will see my face no more.....for I know this, after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock....therefore watch and remember that I did not cease to remember everyone night and day with tears. ‘so now, brethren, I commend you now to God and the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you the inheritance among all you who are sanctified.”

Let’s recall that this kingdom offer is the inheritance promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the patriarch David. This makes the promise of a “Helper” to come that much more important. Now that Jesus has ascended all the focus is now placed on the Spirit of God. This is critical because until the physical kingdom returns this third person of the trinity was promised to prepare a special people for this future kingdom and to herald the coming of the king. The gospel’s central message to the nations is the offer of a kingdom and all of the inheritance that belongs to it. This offer was made available to everyone by God’s grace which is His divine favor available to everyone willing to participate.

In the Book of Acts, notice there is no promise of heaven or condemnation of hell, only the hope of inheritance to those who are sanctified, which we know to be the prize of the coming Kingdom. Paul is trying to proclaim this doctrine to all people to become the church (the called out assembly of God) so they are able to finish their race and inherit the kingdom. The movement became known as “The Way”. The way to what? The way to the kingdom inheritance.



