

No Other Gospel

Some problems just never go away. Changing, editing, embellishing and (the list goes on almost indefinitely) the Gospel seems to be a staple of will-worshippers (Colossians 2:23). It was a problem in the New Testament era and the Apostle Paul addressed it abruptly at the beginning of his Galatian letter by drawing a Divine line in the sand.

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.” Galatians 1:8-9

Evidently, from old-school traditionalists to the “flavor-of-the-month” club, innovators were plaguing the church in its very infancy (cf. Galatians 5:4). Paul limited acceptable dogma to the inspired revelations of the Holy Spirit recorded through the New Testament writers and excluded all other doctrine from the docket. This strictness seems to cramp everyone from those stuck in the past to the free-thinkers promoting “lets-do-new,” but those who go by the Book find in this their foundation for freedom.

Cultural accommodations that sideline and circumvent clear Scripture do not make our worship more winsome or enhance our evangelism or bolster our benevolence. What such innovations do is generate the false hope that some method or directive apart from and found nowhere in the God’s Word will be more effective than doing things God’s way. This cannot be the case.

“‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord.” Isaiah 55:8

So, if we start with the fact that God is smarter than we are, what is the fix for the ever-present danger of departing God’s preferred path? Before any thought of approaching God, in worship or service, we must look for God’s approval. We must understand what God is pleased with before we can please Him and, since His thoughts are far superior than ours, the implication is that He has revealed them. Find the account of action (positive or negative), find the direct statement, or find where God has Divinely implied His will and derive the proper inferences. Since “God is not the author of confusion” (1 Corinthians 14:33), you and I can apply ourselves to know His will and He will reveal it to us (cf. Matthew 7:7). What anyone who seeks the truth will find is the truth (John 8:32).

The result of such an attitude seems to surprise people but, amazingly, if you seek the truth and find it and I seek the truth and find it, we end up unified, as the truth does not contradict itself. Frankly, the reason that unity in religion does not exist is that *someone* does not want the truth.

The real question, then, is this: Do you really want the truth? Because, there is only one Gospel and any departure from it jeopardizes the soul.

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