

The Gospel: The Grand Lie and the only Antidote

Galatians 3:1-14

Introduction

1. The Gospel (though one in essence) is presented in a variety of forms in the Bible
 1. The simplest of forms (e.g. 2Tim.2:8)
 2. In a more detailed form (e.g. Eph.2:1-10; Rom.1:1-6; Col.2:9-15)
 3. With greater detail (e.g. The Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
 4. The OT and NT
2. The Gospel is also presented in different contexts with a variety of flavours (e.g. Eph.2:1-10; 2Tim.1:8-14) which we have already considered.

1. The grand liar—Satan

1. Spiritual deception

1. Notice who Paul is addressing (Gal.1:2)
2. Notice what he says (3:1,3,6-7)
3. Notice the source of the deception (1:7b)

2. The nature of deception (Gal.3:2,3,5; Rom.8:8-9,12-14)

1. Note the references to, "the flesh" (3:3) and, "the works of the law" (3:2,5)
2. The position of the Christian with regard to the flesh (Rom.8:8-9,12-14)
 1. Those who consistently live in the realm of the flesh are not Christians (Rom.8:8)
 2. The Spirit resides within the Christian and controls the Christian (8:9)
 3. The Spirit enlightens, empowers, protects and leads the Christian to increasingly desire conformity to Christ (8:12-14; Matt.7:14)
 1. "Obligation"
 2. "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God" (Rom.8:14; Matt.7:14)

3. The consequences of deception (3:9,10)

1. The contrast: The state of the "blessed" (3:9)
2. The contrast: The state of the "cursed" (3:10)
 1. Through our own merits gained through perfectly obeying the law.
 2. Through the merits of Christ alone, who perfectly obeyed the law as our Representative

2. The Gospel: The Trinity

1. The gospel: Devised by the Trinity (Gal.3:5,13; Eph.1:4; 2Tim.1:9b)

2. The Gospel: The eternal nature of the Gospel message, or the "eternal covenant of redemption" (Eph.1:4; 2Tim.1:9b; Jn.17)

3. The Gospel: Disclosed in time (Gal.3:6-9,14)

1. Note the multiple references to Abraham in Gal.3:6,7,8,9,14
2. "Eternal covenant of redemption", God pronounced the Gospel earlier together with the curses Genesis 3:

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ in embryonic form (Gen.3:15)
 2. The Gospel of grace: When Adam and Eve sinned, they did not die immediately
 3. The Gospel of hope: Adam's wife was named Eve (Gen.3:20)
 4. The Gospel of God's complete provision: The contrasting coverings (Gen.3:7,21)
 1. Adam and Eve sowed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness (Gen.3:7)
 2. "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them" (Gen.3:21)
 5. The Gospel and Abraham (Gal.3:6-9,14)
 1. Abraham is regarded as the father of the Jewish nation (Matt.3:9; Jn.8:33,39,53)
 2. Abraham was saved through the Gospel before the law was given in Ex.20
 3. Abraham was saved by faith alone (Gal.3:6,7,8,9,14)
 4. Abraham was saved through looking forward by faith, to the coming Messiah (Jn.8:56)
 5. Abraham was promised that he would become the father of Jews and Gentiles (Gal.3:8,14)
 6. Abraham's children would all be indwelt by the promised Holy Spirit (3:14; 3:2)
 1. The redemption of a people promised to Abraham is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit (Jn.3:7-8)
 2. The Spirit is the One who was promised in the OT and by Jesus (Joel 2:28-32-see Acts 2:17ff; Is.44:3; Jn.14:16-17)
 1. The OT predictions (Joel 2:28-32-see Acts 2:17ff; Is.44:3)
 2. Jesus repeatedly predicted that the Spirit would be given at Pentecost (Jn.14:16-17; 16:7,13; Acts 1:4-5)
 3. The Spirit is the One, who by indwelling us, makes us the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor.3:16; 6:19)
 4. The Spirit is the One who guarantees that those in whom He dwells will obtain eternal life (2Cor.1:21-22)
4. The Gospel: Its foundation
 1. The Law brought a curse, not a blessing (Gal.3:10,12; Deut.27:26; Lev.18:5)
 2. The work of Christ (3:13-14)
 1. Christ crucified: Christ under the curse of God (1Pet.3:18)
 2. Christ crucified: The fulfilment of two promises (Gal.3:14; Gen.12:3; Is.44:3; Joel 2:28-32; Jn.7:38-39; 14:16,25-26 etc)
 1. The covenant blessing given to Abraham with regard to the Gentiles is fulfilled
 2. All who believe receive the promised Holy Spirit

Conclusion