

# ***Watch Out: Fake Gospel***

**Scripture:** Galatians 1:6-10  
(04-26-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

In his letter Paul expresses his "astonishment" that the Galatian believers are so quickly abandoning God. In this context, false teachers (called "Judaizers") added legalistic requirements, such as circumcision, to the message of salvation. Believers are called by God through the grace of Christ. But they desert from this gospel of grace which is turning away from God Himself. Paul clarifies that there is no other gospel; what the Galatians are following is a "perversion" or "distortion" of the truth.

Paul issues a sharp and urgent warning against distorting the message of Christ. Paul uses the strongest possible language—*anathema* (eternally condemned)—to describe the fate of those who preach a false gospel. He asserts that even if he himself or an angel from heaven were to change the message, they should be cursed.

Salvation is a gift of grace that cannot be "supplemented" by human works without being destroyed. Believers must be "rigorous and discriminating" in their understanding of the gospel to avoid being "sitting ducks" for counterfeits. Any "Gospel Plus" (Jesus + anything else) is actually "Gospel Minus." True salvation is found in Christ alone.

## **GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)**

1. Have you ever bought fake products which misrepresented their identity, composition, or source? Were there any ill effects? How did you feel?
2. When we add human effort to the finished work of Jesus, we aren't making the Gospel better; we are making it powerless. What human efforts are we tempted to add to Jesus' work at the cross? Why?
3. We must be students of the Word so we can recognize a counterfeit. How do we promote "biblical literacy" in a world of "subjective truth"?
4. True peace comes from God's approval, which we already have in Christ. Whose 'Like' button are you living for?"