

The Gospel You Cannot Change

THE GOSPEL REVEALED · PART 4

Galatians 1:8-9 | Arvin Assembly of God | Pastor Brian Overturf | September 13, 2026

MY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Last week: is there really only one gospel? Yes. One gospel. One Savior. One way to God.

So if there is only one... somebody has to be in charge of it. Who signs off on the gospel? Who gets to bring it current, soften it, make it fit the times?

Galatians 1:8-9

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

Who has the right to change the gospel?

Three answers in two verses. Every time the same answer. Nobody. And then Paul puts the measuring stick in your hands.

1. Not the Man Who Brought It to You

| But even if we... let him be accursed. (Gal. 1:8)

He doesn't start with the false teachers. He starts with himself. And catch the word. We. Not I. We.

Galatians 1:1-2

¹ Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), ² and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

A whole group behind that opening line. Paul and every man who ever preached and believed beside him. Barnabas. James. Peter. John.

And before he aims the curse at anybody else, he puts himself on the list. The man who planted the church. Who got stoned and run out of town bringing it. Who met the living Lord on the Damascus road. If I come back next year with a different gospel, don't listen to me.

The gospel doesn't belong to him. He didn't invent it. He can't revise it. He's the delivery man.

1 Corinthians 15:3

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

Delivered. Not the same rescue word from a few weeks ago. A different Greek word: Handing something over intact. Nothing added. Nothing lost. Nothing softened. (Context and word study confirm this)

If this were about his reputation, Paul would have left himself off the list. He didn't. That's a man protecting a message, unashamed...not a man protecting himself.

Don't follow a man further than his message goes. The gospel was handed to you. It isn't yours to update either.

2. Not an Angel from Heaven

| ...or an angel from heaven... (Gal. 1:8)

An angel. Not a fallen one. From heaven. Bright. Holy. Sent. The real thing. And let him be accursed.

Nothing above an angel except God Himself. The highest status a creature can hold... and the status doesn't matter.

It isn't the messenger that makes the message true. It's the message that judges the messenger.

Why an angel? That region was fascinated with them.

Colossians 2:18

¹⁸ Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

2 Corinthians 11:13-14

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Light is not proof. Shiny and sparkly is not proof. Goosebumps are not proof. An emotion is not proof. Your opinion is not proof.

Entire religions today trace back to somebody saying "an angel appeared to me".

And we don't even need angels. We have platforms. A whole Christian celebrity system. Thousands of people defending a man online before anybody checked or really understood theologically what he said.

Nothing wrong with a big church. Size isn't the problem. A crowd isn't the problem. The problem is when size becomes the validation.

An angel out of heaven doesn't get that pass. A man with a microphone and a crowd doesn't either.

Test what you listen to. Test the author you recommend. Test the preacher who sounds good but uses no Bible. And test this pulpit.

Just say no to self-help felt needs care bear Christianity with a sprinkle of pop-psychology presented like a Ted-Talk

3. Not Anyone Who Comes After

| ...if anyone preaches any other gospel... (Gal. 1:9)

He said it in verse 8. He says it again in verse 9. He doesn't walk it back. He says it slower.

Verse 8: if we, or an angel. Verse 9: if anyone. And he never names them. He hands the church the description.

Accursed. Not excommunication. Not getting voted out of a church. In the Old Testament, this was a thing set apart by God for destruction. You didn't salvage it. You didn't keep a piece of it. You didn't argue with it.

Example/Background: Jericho belonged to God. Achan kept a little of it and buried it under his tent. The next battle, a nothing town called Ai, and Israel got run off the field. (Worse than the Arvin High football team)

Joshua 7:12

¹² Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

Deuteronomy 7:26

²⁶ **Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.**

Don't even bring it in the house. A cursed thing is dangerous to whoever gives it a room.

So the curse isn't Paul venting. It's guardrails around a church he loves.

Narrow? Harsh? If there really is only one way to God (there is), the cruelest thing I could do is smile and tell you there are lots of ways or give you soft serve ice cream...

Two reasons Paul was intense... Their souls were at stake. And the glory of Christ was at stake.

To make men's works necessary to salvation, even as a supplement to the work of Christ, is derogatory to His finished work. It is to imply that Christ's work was in some way unsatisfactory, and that men need to add to it and improve on it. It is, in effect, to declare the cross redundant.

— John Stott

A supplement. Not a replacement. Nobody said let's get rid of Jesus. Just a little something on the end. Christ... and.

Acts 15:1

¹ **And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."**

Unless. That's the whole fight. One word.

Three kinds of religion. D-O: do enough and MAYBE God will save you.

D-O-N-'-T: stay away from enough and MAYBE God will save you. Both put the weight back on your shoulders. (Works)

What the Bible declares is spelled D-O-N-E.

John 19:30

³⁰ **So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.**

Paid in full. Nothing left to add. Nothing left to pay. The only thing left is to receive it.

An unless doesn't just put you in danger. It looks into the face of Jesus and says not enough.

4. You Already Have the Real One

| ...than what you have received... (Gal. 1:9)

Verse 8: what we have preached to you. Verse 9: what you have received. In verse 8 the measuring stick is in Paul's hand. In verse 9 he hands it to you.

Received: The word for handing something down. One set of hands into the next, intact. And the tense says it happened once and it's settled. You took it. It's yours.

The message outranks the messenger. And you are holding the message. You're not helpless.

Two tests. What is it made of? Grace alone, for the glory of God alone. Where did it come from? God's Word alone.

Acts 17:11

¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

The Bereans. And notice who they were checking. Paul. God calls them noble for it.

So don't take my word for it. Check me. That's what a healthy church does.

That's Wednesday night. Same passage, slower. Commentaries pulled. Scholars set against each other. Name and page number beside every quote so you can go find it and tell me if I got it wrong.

The Bible wasn't written in Arvin. Words like...

Accursed. Received. Delivered. Those words meant something specific to the people holding that letter.

There is a difference between what the Bible says and what we think it says. I don't want a church that believes me. I want a church that knows God's Word.

When somebody hands you something new, don't ask whether it sounds good. Ask whether it's faithful to God's Word.

CONCLUSION

Not the man who preached it. Not an angel who outranks him. Not anyone who came after. There is no other gospel. There never was.

Hebrews 13:8

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

And here it is. The gospel you already received.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

It is finished. Don't let anybody hand you an unless.