

An angel with large, dark, feathered wings is shown in profile, wearing a dark robe and looking towards a woman. The woman is seated on the ground, wearing a white, flowing robe and a purple sash. She has her head bowed and appears to be in a state of distress or prayer. The background is a vast, hazy desert landscape with mountains in the distance under a warm, golden light. The entire scene is framed by a white, octagonal border with a decorative chain-link pattern on the left side.

The Ingredients of the Gospel

Galatians 1:1-10

Only One

A painting depicting Paul the Apostle, a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a dark robe, standing and speaking to a group of people. The scene is set in a mountainous landscape with a warm, golden light. The people are dressed in simple, light-colored clothing. The overall mood is one of intense communication and teaching.

- Paul is intense because the Galatian Christians had turned away from the gospel.
- Part of Paul's emotional intensity is focused on how *"quickly"* these followers of Christ turned from the gospel.
- The Bible consistently denies that all roads lead to heaven.
- As believers, we cannot be hazy and imprecise in what we believe about the Gospel.

Reject “Jesus Plus” Thinking

- The people this letter represents had not turned to Buddhism, Hinduism, or Islam instead, they had added to the Gospel.
- The Bible does not present itself as one color among a spectrum of colors.
- The Bible presents its teaching as right versus wrong, or true versus false.
- The Galatian Christians did not deny you must believe Jesus for salvation, they just stressed that you must also be circumcised.
- If you add anything to the cross, you might as well be an atheist.
- If you alter the engine of the Gospel, then you will go to hell at the end of time.

Get a Hold on the Gospel

- We cannot relax our hold on the Gospel.
- Many people believe that the essential message of Christianity is, “If you behave, then you belong.”
- The “Jesus Plus” crowd will lead you to a joyless life.
- If you alter the Gospel, you will end up like the elder brother in Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son.
- When we reject the Gospel of grace for the Gospel of “Do More, Try Harder,” we are handcuffed to yesterday’s sins.

Conclusion



- **The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ died so that anyone who trusts in Him is saved from God's anger for your sin.**
- **Christianity is not a crutch for the weak; it is a stretcher for the dead.**
- **The gospel is not the first 'step' in a 'stairway of truths, rather, it is the 'hub' in a 'wheel' of truth.**
- **The gospel is not just the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom of God, but the only way we will enter His kingdom.**