The Battle for the Gospel
Galatians 1:1-9

1 Cor. 1:18

Jesus + Anything Else = A False Gospel

Legalism = Anything that promotes working in our own power, and according to our own rules, in order to earn righteousness and favor with God.

Galatians 1:1-9

The Battle Begins:

1. Grace Dispatched (v. 1-2)

Paul based his authority on 2 bedrock truths:

1) His Apostleship

“To the Jew the word (apostle) was well defined; it meant a special messenger, with a special status, enjoying an authority and commission that came from a body higher than himself.” - Alan Cole, The Epistle to the Galatians

2) The Resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ

- The message of the gospel stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- 1 Corinthians 15 (Paul’s apologetic defense of the resurrection)

2. Grace Declared (v. 3-5)

Verses 3-5 summarize the entirety of the biblical gospel:

The means of salvation is “grace”- God freely provides for us what we do not deserve.
The nature of salvation is “peace”- Reconciliation with our holy Creator, God.
The source of salvation is “God’s will”- God initiated our rescue.

This is the beauty of the true, biblical gospel!

3. Grace Deserted (v. 6-9)
“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.” – 2 Corinthians 11:14

False religions influenced by angels of light:
- Buddhism (Siddhartha Gautama wrestled with angels/spirits before enlightenment)
- Islam (Mohammed visited by the angel Gabriel)
- Jehovah’s Witnesses (Watchtower organization claims direction from angels)
- Mormonism (Joseph Smith visited by an angel, Moroni)
- Seventh Day Adventists (Ellen G. White given hidden truths by an angel)
- Yoga (Goal is to become one with the Kundalini- the spirit of light)

Matthew 7:15

The Gospel is essential because:

1. The glory of Christ is at stake

“If you meet with a system of theology that magnifies man, flee from it as far as you can.” – Charles Spurgeon

2. People’s eternal destinies are at stake

John 14:6

3. The health of the Church is at stake

Jesus + Anything Else = A False Gospel