



The Voice of Truth

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“Which is Not Another Gospel” By Jimmy Pettigrew

The purpose of Paul’s letter to Galatia was written to meet needs of a particular occasion. We are not left to second-guess the reason for which this letter was written. “I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another (gospel) only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ” (**Galatians 1:6-7**). What were these “foolish Galatians” doing? They were turning away themselves from the grace of God to a different gospel which Paul explained is not another gospel.

There is only one gospel, one faith (**Ephesians 4:5**); one message of good news (**Romans 10:13**); it is called Truth (**John 8:32**); the Word (**Acts 8:4**); the faith (**Jude 3**); the Way (**Acts 9:2**); the Gospel (**Romans 1:16**). There is one gospel for all men for all time (**Matthew 28:18-20**; **Mark 16:15**); and men will be judged by that one gospel (**John 12:48**). The truth, the one gospel will give freedom from sin (**John 8:32**), salvation (**1 Timothy 2:4**; **Romans 1:16**); it is able to save your soul (**James 1:21**). But one’s salvation is predicated upon his love for the Truth (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**). God intends for the Truth to be in us (**1 John 1:8**); keeping God’s commandments is the clear evidence that the Truth is in us. The Truth abides in the person who is faithful to the truth (**2 John 2**).

Truth can and has been perverted. Error and perversions are to be rejected! The gospel may be perverted, twisted, or changed (**Galatians 1:6-9**); “twist to their own destruction” (**2 Peter 3:16**). Perversions of the gospel bring false teachers under condemnation (**Galatians 1:8-9**). God does not have a gospel for one group and a different gospel for another group. The one gospel does not reveal different plans of salvation. There is one way for all people to be saved. One must hear the gospel (**Romans 10:14**); one must believe Jesus is the Christ the Son of God (**John 8:24**); Repent of sins (**Luke 13:3**), and be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**); baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**); where grace is found (**2 Timothy 2:1**) and salvation (**2 Timothy 2:10**). People pervert the gospel of Christ by adding or taking away from His word (**Revelation 22:18-19**). Perversions of the gospel assert:

1. That salvation is by faith only (**James 2:24-26**).
2. That one is saved before baptism (**1 Peter 3:21**; **Mark 16:15-16**).
3. All one has to do is pray to be saved, repeat the sinners prayer (**Acts 22:16**).
4. That God is pleased with many different “churches” (**Matthew 16:18**; **Ephesians 1:22-23**).
5. Just accept Jesus as your personal Savior (**Hebrews 5:8-9**; **Matthew 7:21-23**).
6. All worship is pleasing to God (**John 4:24**).
7. That we are to keep the Law of Moses (**Romans 7:1-6**; **Galatians 3:24-25**).
8. That Truth doesn’t really matter, sincerity matters (**Acts 9, 22, 26** look at Paul’s life, he was sincere, but sincerity wrong! Sincerity is not sufficient).

One needs to remember **2 John 9**: “Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the

CONTINUED INSIDE...

teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son." What kind of sin is John talking about? The kind of sin under consideration here is one that does not abide in the doctrine of Christ. To have the Father and the Son, we must abide in the doctrine or teaching of Christ; that is, we must do their will, as set out in the New Testament, "he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven" (**Matthew 7:21**). Truth is from heaven (**John 1:17; 14:6**). It must be known (**John 8:32**), believed (**2 Thessalonians 2:12**), loved (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**), and obeyed (**1 Peter 1:22; 5:7**). Only then can it set one free (**John 8:32**) and sanctify (**John 17:17**). One must be careful for truth can be perverted (**Romans 1:25**). The voice of the majority is never the proper standard in religion (**Matthew 7:13-14**). It is possible to be strong in numbers but not in truth (**Jeremiah 9:3**). The human race is not qualified to direct its own steps (**Jeremiah 10:23**). All men have the responsibility to hear the divine truth (**Jeremiah 22:29**). One must take heed what he hears (**Mark 4:24**); it must be truth. Friends, God's word is powerful (**Hebrews 4:12**)!

Friends, the gospel, is the good news that Christ came to earth (**Galatians 4:4**); that He died for our sins and was resurrected (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**); that Jesus Christ opened the way to heaven (**Hebrews 10:19-20**). No one knows when the second coming of Christ will occur (**Matthew 24:36**). The Lord's second coming will be sudden and unexpected as a thief in the night (**2 Peter 3:10**). Are you ready for that day to come? Are you following, walking in truth (**2 John 4**)? Or are you following "a different gospel; which is not another (gospel)..." (**Galatians 1:6-7**)? "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (**Joshua 24:15**).

Keep the Feast By Jeff Belknap

The Bible is filled with types and antitypes: physical representations in the Old Testament, which lay the foundation for understanding the spiritual truths revealed in the New Testament. Although there are many other examples of these parallels, this article focuses on the feast of the unleavened bread, as it relates to the exercise of marking and avoiding.

The institution of the Passover, revealed in **Exodus 12**, was a seven-day feast in which the children of Israel were to eat "unleavened bread" after having "put away leaven" from their houses (**v. 15**). Moreover, verse 19 says, "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel...." During this feast, if the Israelites had tolerated any leaven whatsoever within their homes, they would have been severed from God and His people!

In the New Testament, not many years after the local church had been established at Corinth, the spiritual leaven of fornication entered in among them (**1 Cor. 5:1**). Paul's ensuing words of admonition were, "...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." Then in verse 11, Paul specified some (though not all) leavening agents, including, "if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one, no, not to eat." After identifying various leavens, he concludes the list with the words "such an one." This would include other, similar leavening influences which were not expressly mentioned in the text (**cf. Mark 7:8,13; Gal. 5:21**), but which are recognized as sin, or leaven, elsewhere in the apostles' writings.

The antitype of unleavened bread for our spiritual "feast" today is "the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." Our acknowledgement of both of these elements is imperative if we

are to please the Lord (**Matt. 4:4**)! If "sincerity" and "truth" are the "unleavened bread," then all insincerity and untruth are leavening agents that we must "purge out." Case in point: false doctrine is also revealed in the gospel as leaven (**cf. Matt. 16:6-12** and **Mark 8:18**). Although heresy may be taught in all sincerity, it is still "untruth" and regarded as the leaven of "wickedness" [see *The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon*, pg. 48, anomia (# 458)]. In **Romans 16:17**, the apostle Paul commanded all Christians to "...mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." No exceptions are revealed or implied (**cf. Titus 3:10**)!

There are many who advocate that **Romans 14** authorizes us to keep fellowship with those who teach and practice error on doctrinal matters of considerable importance, such as marriage, divorce and remarriage. Some have said that the reason they are not required to separate from "such" teachers is that they, themselves, truly believe the doctrine which they advocate. The end result is the same (**Matt. 15:13-14**), whether the instructor of erroneous doctrine is sincere or not: all doctrinal error (even a little, **1 Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9**) corrupts the souls of many (**1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Tim. 2:16-18**). "The wages of sin is death" (**Rom. 6:23**).

Will we tolerate and accept the fatal leaven of sin and error, or "keep the feast" with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth? *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com*

The Scriptures Alone Are Sufficient

By David J. Riggs

Paul told Timothy, "From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (**2 Tim. 3:15**). Consequently, according to an inspired apostle, one can obtain eternal salvation solely by following the Scriptures. In **2 Tim. 3:16-17**, Paul declared that the Scriptures contain everything necessary for doctrine, reproof, etc., to make the man of God perfect or complete. He further added, "...thoroughly equipped for every good work." (**Verse 17**). Thus, there is not a single good work the Christian can do which is not designated in the Scriptures.

The apostle John clearly shows that the things which he wrote were given to produce the faith which brings life in the name of Jesus (**John 20:30-31**). We freely admit that the Scriptures do not contain everything Jesus did. John said, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (**John 21:25**). Although we do not have everything Jesus did, we do have every necessary thing. We have enough to give us life in His name.

Luke said he wrote his book to Theophilus in order that he might know the certainty of the things which he had heard (**Luke 1:3-4**). In other words, Theophilus would no longer need to rely on what he had been taught by word of mouth, but could now prove them by the inspired writings. In **Acts 1:1** Luke said, "The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach..." What did Luke mean when he said he wrote of all that Jesus did and taught? We know he did not mean every detail of the life of Christ, because John said if that were done, the world itself would not contain the books. He meant, therefore, that he had written all necessary things that Jesus did and taught. The Scriptures provide:

All necessary things which Jesus did - Acts 1:1-2
Certainty of His action and teaching - Luke 1:3-4
Life in the name of Jesus - John 20:30-31
Instructions to salvation - 2 Tim. 3:15
Commands of the Lord - 1 Cor. 14:37

The proper conduct - 1 Tim. 3:14-15
Every good work - 2 Tim. 3:16-17
Protection against sin - 1 John 2:1
An assurance of eternal life - 1 John 5:13
Standard by which teachers are tested - Acts 17:11
Standard which we cannot go beyond - 1 Cor. 4:6
Blessings from God - Rev. 1:3
Joy that is complete - 1 John 1:3-4
Standard of judgment - Rev. 20:12

If one reads and studies the New Testament and obtains from it all the things mentioned above, what else would he need? Do not men cast reflection on God when they imply that God failed to provide everything necessary for salvation? God declared that man is equipped for every good work through the Scriptures (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**). Who has the right to say that man is not equipped for every good work through the Scriptures?

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/>

Honesty - Truth - Error By Eugene Britnell

There are many good people in the religious world who are honestly mistaken, but when a man who is honestly mistaken hears the truth, one of two things must happen: he will cease to be mistaken or he will cease to be HONEST. If he does not obey the truth he will no longer be honest. If he does obey the truth he will no longer be mistaken. Honesty and error must separate when truth comes along. No man can be honestly mistaken if he has heard the truth!

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.” (**Hebrews 10:26-27**)

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17