

New Year's 2021, Lest We Lose Our Way

- ✍ I felt it would be good here on the cusp of another year with great uncertainties to remind us all of what we are and what we are to be doing. We have to live for eternity, which is certainty, and not for the here and now which are immeasurably uncertain.
- ✍ We have a call and commission to fulfill which has no uncertain terms in it. **Matthew 28:19-20**. We have the only real message of hope, peace, and life, and we would do well to remind ourselves of the fundamentals of the message as we enter a new year.
- ✍ **Galatians 1:6-10** Looking at a church that had forgotten what they really were and what the real good news was.

1. Turning away from this real good news isn't just done through false teaching.

- ✓ "Astounded; bewildered" They had settled for a watered down, altered version of the truth which in essence nullified its effect.
 - ✓ Jesus is the only way, but this church had lost its way. You may say that you would never water down the gospel, but are you telling people the gospel?
 - ✓ There is no essential difference between a watered-down gospel and orthodox faith that is never shared.
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2. Four things to take note of from what Paul says to this church that has lost its way.

- 1) Good news needs no additions; these false teachers were not openly denying Jesus; in fact, they were preaching Jesus.
 - ✓ They just were adding some so-called improvements like keeping the Old Testament law.
 - ✓ Rule of thumb, any gospel that has an "and" on the end of it: "trust Jesus and keep the law, and be baptized, and be a church member, and do-good deeds, etc." is not gospel at all!
 - ✓ What's so wrong about adding a little? Adding means that Jesus isn't enough! Jesus is enough for God, for heaven, for eternity, but He's not enough for you?
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- 2) Distorting the Gospel is much more than a capital offense.
 - ✓ **Verses 8-9** accursed means literally "go to Hell". Not "punished," "judged," "killed," "excommunicated, etc...", but "Accursed"
 - ✓ There are a lot of sins that are denounced in the scriptures, but none are denounced anywhere close to as strong as this one is. The person preaching this false gospel isn't just hurting people in time but also in eternity.
- 3) Distorting is serious business because only the Gospel saves. **Jn. 14:6, Acts 4:12**
- 4) Only the Gospel actually changes lives.
 - ✓ One of the strongest arguments for the gospel is the personal testimony of someone whose life has been changed by it.
 - ✓ This is what we lose if we lose the gospel; the power to truly change lives not just for now, but all eternity.

What do we do with our changing and disturbed world? We meet it with the unchanged gospel and the certainty of eternity.
