

**NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Sermon: No Other Gospel Part 1**

**Topic: A Warning**

**Scripture Text: Galatians 1:6–9**

**01/13/2019**

**Do not go where it is all fine music and grand talk and beautiful architecture... Go where the Gospel is preached and go often.**

**Charles Spurgeon**

**Galatians 1:6–9 (NKJV) 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 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.**

By the mercy and grace of God we are embarking on the beginning of a new year. I am excited and apprehensive about the messages that the Holy Spirit has in store for us. We as a church have decided to feed on solid food. No longer are we to be seen as babes but instead as mature believers.

Let me refer us to Hebrews 5. It records Paul admonishing believers that have not demonstrated spiritual growth and “don’t seem to listen.” They are still content to be fed milk and not partaking of “solid food.”

*Hebrews 5:11–14 (NLT) 11 There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don’t seem to listen. 12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. **14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.***

Many Christians are content to go to church or watch preachers on television and hear about the goodness and love of God, the miracles and sacrifice of Jesus and other basic truths that make them feel good. Those are the foundational truths we all learned when we were born again. No one is born directly into adulthood or adult maturity, either physically or spiritually, that takes place through a growth process. If we do not grow, we become like children vulnerable to every wind and doctrine.

*Ephesians 4: 14 (NKJV); 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

So, as your pastor I want to help us all to grow in the full knowledge of God, Jesus our savior and spiritual maturity able to **“recognize the difference between right and wrong.”** (*Hebrews 5: 14*)

You know me well enough by now that this all sounds like another series in the making. In the coming weeks we will be focusing on the doctrines that the Bible explicitly identify as essential to our salvation and to our growth in faith.

In our Responsive reading we have a taste of what I am referring to.

*Acts 15:1 (NKJV) 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.”*

This was false doctrine not taught by the Apostles and therefore **not essential for salvation.**

This is a series I feel I am led to and will obey until the Holy Spirit says otherwise.

Why do I consider this series to be essential? New Testament history tells us that the greatest threat to the church was false doctrine. It wasn't the outside threats or even the persecutions that often drove the church underground, that became a purifying element to the church. More harm was done by the false prophets and teachers within the church. I believe that this is still the greatest threat to the church today.

**Jesus** warned the church of this.

*Matthew 7:15 (NKJV) 15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

**Paul**, the church planter and teacher speaking to the Elders of the Ephesian gave explicit instructions to the overseers of the church.

*Acts 20:30 (NKJV). **30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.** 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

“Perverse things” = The Gr. word means “distorted,” or “twisted”

### **Paul to Titus**

*Titus 1:10–11 (NLT) 10 For there are many rebellious people who engage in useless talk and deceive others. This is especially true of those who insist on circumcision for salvation. **11 They must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching. And they do it only for money.***

### **Peter**

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [The MacArthur Study Bible](#) (electronic ed., p. 1672). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

2 Peter 2:1 (NKJV) *1 But there were also false prophets among the people, **even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies,** even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*

### **Jude**

*Jude 4 (NKJV) **4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed,** who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **John**

*1 John 2:18–19 (NKJV) 18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. **19 They went out from us, but they were not of us;** ...*

Today was supposed to be a topic for one sermon but there has to be a part two. I have tried to lay the ground work for the series by pointing out that false teaching is the great enemy of the church and it is promoted by Satan, the deceiver.

If it was that important for those mentioned above to warn against, we must also do so today.

I will borrow a key phrase from our series on the different religions and denominations which the question was asked, “how does the doctrine measure up to the Litmus Test?”

Definition of litmus test: a test in which a single factor (such as an attitude, event, or fact) is decisive. MW

In this series the Litmus Test is in Galatians 1:8

**V8 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.**

Is the doctrine (something that is taught MW) the same as was preached by Christ and or His Apostles. How does it measure up to scripture?

**Message Scriptures: Galatians 1:6–9, Hebrews 5:11–14, Ephesians 4: 14, Acts 15:1, Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:30, Titus 1:10–11, 2 Peter 2:1, Jude 4, 1 John 2:18–19,**

***END***

## How to Recognize False Doctrine

False doctrine is that which opposes some fundamental truth or that which is necessary for salvation. The following are some examples of false doctrine:

- **The erasing of hell.** The Bible describes hell as a real place of eternal torment, the destination for every unregenerate soul ([Revelation 20:15](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:8](#)). A denial of hell directly contradicts Jesus' own words ([Matthew 10:28](#); [25:46](#)) and is therefore a false doctrine.
- **The idea that there are “many paths to God.”** This false doctrine claims that, since God is love, He will accept any religious effort as long as the practitioner is sincere. It also contradicts Jesus' direct words that He is the only way to God ([John 14:6](#)).
- **Any teaching that redefines the person of Jesus Christ.** Doctrine that denies the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, His sinless nature, His actual death, or His physical resurrection is false doctrine. . [First John 4:1-3](#) makes it clear that a denial of biblical Christology is “anti-Christ.” Jesus described false teachers within the church as “wolves in sheep's clothing” ([Matthew 7:15](#)).
- **Teaching that adds human religious works to Christ's finished work on the cross as necessary ingredients for salvation.** This teaching may pay lip service to salvation by faith alone but insists that a religious ritual (such as water baptism) is salvific. Some groups even legislate hairstyles, clothing options, and food consumption. [Romans 11:6](#) warns against attempts to mix grace with works.
- **The teaching that presents grace as a license to sin.** Sometimes called “[easy-believism](#),” this false doctrine implies that all one must do for right standing with God is to believe the facts about Jesus, pray a prayer at some point, and then resume control of one's life with the assurance of heaven at the end.

Satan has been confusing and perverting the Word of God since the Garden of Eden ([Genesis 3:1-4](#); [Matthew 4:6](#)).

We are wise to recognize how vulnerable we are to heresy and make it our habit to do as the Bereans did in [Acts 17:11](#): “*they . . . examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*” When we make it our goal to follow the lead of the first church, we will go far in avoiding the pitfalls of false doctrine. [Acts 2:42](#) says, “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Such devotion will protect us and ensure that we are on the path Jesus set for us

[False teachers](#), the servants of Satan, try to appear as “servants of righteousness” ([2 Corinthians 11:15](#)), but they will be known by their fruits ([Matthew 7:16](#)). A charlatan promoting false doctrine will show signs of pride, greed, and rebellion (see [Jude 1:11](#)) and will often promote or engage in sexual immorality ([2 Peter 2:14](#); [Revelation 2:20](#)).