

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: No Other Gospel Part 2

Topic: False Teaching and Heresy

Scripture Text: Galatians 1:6–9

01/20/2019

“The Word became flesh and some theologians and some preachers turned it back into words.”

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.

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.

In 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: 14 (NLT)* **14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.**

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*)

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.

We have our first example found in last week’s responsive reading

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.**

New Testament history tells us that the greatest threat to the church was false doctrine. More harm was done by the false prophets and teachers of false doctrine within the church. I believe that this is still the greatest threat to the church today.

Last week we covered the warnings given by Jesus, Paul, Peter, Jude and John concerning this threat.

In this series the Litmus Test or the measuring stick will be based on Galatians 1:8. Is it the same Gospel that was preached by the Apostles?

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.

So far there are three main words we will probably repeat often they are; Doctrine, Essential and Heresy.

Doctrine – Is something that is taught MW), “a set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true.”

What is false doctrine?

Answer: False doctrine is any idea that adds to, takes away from, contradicts, or nullifies the doctrine given in God’s Word. For example, any teaching about Jesus that denies His virgin birth is a false doctrine, because it contradicts **the clear teaching of Scripture.**

False doctrine is introduced by false teachers often in sheep’s clothing but can be promoted and advanced by well-meaning people repeating what they have heard or have been taught to believe.

As a child sitting in my grandfather’s church and later when my father became the pastor, I believed what they said. It isn’t to say that they taught error but to say that I never felt the need to doubt them.

This is the same attitude of many Christians today. If their favorite personality says it then they believe it and will repeat it.

A mature Christian seeking to know the truth will do as the Berean Christians.

*Acts 17:11 (NLT) 11 And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day **to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.***

Not studying the scriptures leaves us open to false doctrine. For example, do you remember the phrase, “name it and claim it.” This was part of the prosperity doctrine. This is often taught with the idea that whatever you ask of God He will do it. We here have learned that God can say yes, No and not yet.

Sometimes doctrine is presented in honest error, but may be false just the same.

At Christmas time a familiar song is sung called “For unto us a child is born.”

For unto us a child is born

Unto us, a son is given

Unto us, a son is given

And his name shall be called

Wonderful, Counselor

The mighty God, the everlasting Father

The prince of peace

The lyrics are printed differently in different books.

This song is taken from (*Isaiah 9:6*)

*Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called **Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

Now some theologians have taken that passage and applied it to another passage in *Judges 13:17–18 (NKJV) 17 Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, “What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?” 18 And the Angel of the Lord said to him, “**Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?**”*

Although “wonderful in Judges is not capitalized some have said that: “the angel of the Lord” mentioned here is Jesus.

I do not believe it to be so and this could be heading to incorrect teaching. When asking the question “is this doctrine/Gospel preached by the Apostles, the answer is no.

Here are what other translations say:

Judges 13:18 (NIV84) 18 He replied, “Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding.”

Judges 13:18 (NCV) 18 ... “Why do you ask my name? It is too amazing for you to understand.”

Let’s take another look at *Isiah 9:6*

*Isaiah 9:6 (ESV, NIV, NLT, NCV) 6 ... **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, ...***

You will notice that there is no comma between Wonderful and Counselor indicating that it represents a title rather than a name.

Since I do not speak or understand Greek, I have to consider the translations and comments of those that do.

My objective is not to discredit the Bible but to impress upon you to be diligent students of the bible to rightly divide the word of truth and to “recognize the difference between right and wrong.

We will later in the series touch on other doctrine for our edification:

- Doctrine of Salvation
- Doctrine of Christian growth
- Doctrine of specific religion/ Denomination
- Doctrine of a specific church

The next word or topic is Heresy.

Heresy – is adherence to a religious opinion contrary to **church dogma**

Dogma - a [doctrine](#) or body of doctrines concerning faith or morals formally stated and authoritatively proclaimed by a church.

Dogmatic - characterized by or [given](#) to the expression of opinions very strongly or positively as if they were facts

As I go through this series, I am mindful that there may be some that will accuse me of Heresy.

That label is based upon their own dogma. In the early church one accused of heresy, as determined by church leaders, often faced imprisonment, torture or even death.

Galileo who taught that the earth was not flat but round was accused of heresy against the church and was not allowed to leave the church grounds.

Martin Luther who spoke out against the church doctrine of paying for indulgences which was only a money-making scheme was accused of heresy.

*Mark 7:6–7 (NKJV) 6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**’*

There are many good orators and persuasive speakers today. They create two options for their listeners. 1. They are dismissed by listeners as cranks and only after the money or 2. they are blindly followed by people lead by their feelings and the personalities persuasive words.

The first group will not want anything to do with religion categorizing all as hypocrites. And the second group will not hear or tolerate any questionable comments about their leader.

We should be part of a third group and be like the Berean and compare what is said to the scriptures.

The first and obvious red flag is when anyone, be it me or an angel preach another Gospel than that which is in the scriptures. Be on the lookout when they pervert the gospel by twisting it, detracting from it or adding to it

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.

Message Scriptures: **Galatians 1:6–9**, *Acts 15:1, Acts 17:11, Isaiah 9:6, Judges 13:17–18, Mark 7:6–7*

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