

# One Gospel

## *Galatians 1:6-9*

**Introduction:** As we approach the “Seven Ones of Unity” in Ephesians 4:4-6, we need to say something about another “one.” There is something that underlies these “Seven Ones” and ought to be considered first. We want to look at “The One Gospel.”

### **I. Definition And Explanation Of “Gospel.”**

#### **A. Definition.**

1. *“...originally denoted a reward for good tidings; later, the idea of reward dropped, and the word stood for "the good news" itself. The Eng. word "gospel," i.e. "good message," is the equivalent of euangelion (Eng., "evangel"). (Vine, p. 507).*
2. *“...a word of Anglo-Saxon origin, and meaning "God's spell", i.e., word of God, or rather, according to others, "good spell", i.e., good news. It is the rendering of the Greek euangelion, i.e., "good message." (Easton's Bible Dictionary)*
3. *“...The gospel is the charter of that kingdom, containing the King's coronation oath, by which he has graciously obliged himself to pardon, protect, and save the subjects of that kingdom; it contains also their oath of allegiance, by which they oblige themselves to observe his statutes and seek his honour” (Matthew Henry).*
4. Compare ***Isaiah 61:1*** with ***Luke 4:18***.

#### **B. Explanation.**

1. There is one gospel, though there may be perversions (***Gal. 1:6-9***).
  - a. It **is not**:
    - 1) Sensationalism.
    - 2) Emotionalism.
    - 3) A “Social Gospel.”
      - a) Food, fun, frolic.
      - b) Secular education.
      - c) Social engineering.
    - 4) Political activism.
  - b. It **is**:
    - 1) ***“The gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24).***
    - 2) ***“The power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16).***
    - 3) ***“The word of truth, the gospel of your salvation” (Eph. 1:13).***
    - 4) ***“The everlasting gospel” (Rev. 14:6).***
2. It is of God (***Rom. 1:1***).
3. Christ received it from God (***Heb. 1:2***).
4. Apostles preached it (***Mk. 16:15***).

## II. Was It Really Another Gospel?

- A. Paul allows that it is **“different,”** but it is not **“another.”**
1. KJV has **“another”** in both places although they are different words.
    - a. In verse 6, the word *“heteros”* refers to *“a qualitative difference and denotes another of a different sort”* (Vin, p. 62).
    - b. In verse 7, the word *“allos”* refers to *“another of the same kind”* (Vine, p. 62).
  2. By way of this contrast, Paul is really saying that it is no gospel at all!
  3. Paul calls it a perversion. This word (*metastrepho*) means *“to transform into something of an opposite character”* (Vine, p. 862). It is a distortion of the true gospel.
- B. *“The apostasy at Galatia did not deny the death, burial, resurrection, ascension, coronation, or glorification of Christ. It did not deny that baptism was essential to salvation. However, it was a departure from the one who had called them into the grace of Christ. Those who teach that we need to be united only in the gospel (meaning the facts pertaining to the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ and the one act of baptism) but can have diversity in the realm of doctrine (all other teachings in the Bible) find their doctrine answered here in the first few verses of Galatians. The apostasy which Paul was refuting was, by the modern terminology, a ‘doctrinal’ apostasy”* Willis, pp. 14-15).
1. Brother Willis points out that this is not a major shift in message.
  2. Nevertheless, there is no place for any change whether major or minor.
- C. The fruit of this “other” gospel is condemnation.
1. **“...let him be accursed.”**
  2. **“Accursed”** is *“anathema”* meaning to be reserved for the direst woes.
  3. The NIV has **“eternally condemned.”**
  4. This is a serious matter. The slightest change will bring about this consequence.

## III. These Verses Tell Us That There Is One Gospel.

- A. James refers to the gospel as **“the perfect law of liberty”** (James 1:25).
1. Needs no alteration—addition or subtraction.
  2. Contains **“...all things that pertain to life and godliness”** (2 Peter 1:3).
- B. It will tell us what to do to be saved, **“He who believes and is baptized will be saved...”** (Mk. 16:16a).
- C. It will tell us how to stay saved, **“The just shall live by faith”** (Gal. 3:11).
- D. It will tell us all things necessary to **“...keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** (Eph. 4:3).

**Conclusion:** We have seen what the end is of those who turn to another gospel. Later, Peter asks in **1 Peter 4:17**, **“...what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”** Let us point out that it will be a fearful end. Why not obey the true gospel of Christ this very day? HBRCB.