

The Gospel Paul Did NOT Preach

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“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

~ Galatians 1:11-12

This letter was written to show the saints in the “churches of Galatia” that they were not under the law, and that keeping the law would not make them more spiritual (Galatians 3:24-26; 3:3; 5:18). *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree ... But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith ...”* (Galatians 3:13, 11).

Paul also states that *“... if righteousness **come** by the law, then Christ is dead in vain”* (Galatians 2:21). Paul points to the fact that *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified”* (Galatians 2:16). Again, *“But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law”* (Galatians 5:18).

Remember Paul said the gospel he preached he **did not receive from man** (Galatians 1:11-12). Did Paul receive a gospel from man? Did any man tell Paul any “good news” at Damascus? Yes, but the gospel that Paul received from Ananias was **not** the gospel that Paul preached. How do we know this? Paul said this was true. *“But I certify [make known] you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of [by] me is not after [according to] man. For I **neither received it of [from] man, neither was I taught it,**”* that is, I was not taught it by man. How did Paul receive the gospel that he preached? **“By the revelation of Jesus Christ”** (Galatians 1:11-12).

Since Paul is the apostle of the Gentiles [nations] (Romans 11:13), and since he tells us to follow him (I Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 3:17), we should learn which gospel he did **not** preach so we will be sure that we do not make the mistake of preaching that gospel. Since Paul did receive a gospel from man [Ananias], then the “gospel” Paul received from Ananias has to be the gospel that he did **not** preach because Paul **did not preach the gospel that he received from man** (Galatians 1:11-12).

What was the “gospel” that Paul received from Ananias? “*And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law ... came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight ... and now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*” (Acts 22:12, 13, 16). Now we **know** which “gospel” Paul **did not** preach. **He did not preach “*arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord,*”** for that is the “gospel” he received from man, for he said so (Galatians 1:11-12).

Paul was saved under the law for Acts 22:12 says that Ananias was a devout man according to the law. A devout man according to the law will teach **nothing contrary to the law**. Although Paul was saved under the law, God called him by His grace to reveal His Son in him that he might preach Him among the heathen – or Gentiles (Galatians 1:15-16). Now the Gentiles have not the law (Romans 2:14). Therefore, God saved Saul [the Jew] and sent him forth as Paul [the Gentile] to the Gentiles, with the message of salvation from sin by the **pure grace of God apart from works**.

Now keep in mind that the gospel Paul received from man, the gospel he did **not** preach, was, “*arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” Today man cannot be saved from sin by being baptized to wash away his sins, calling on the name of the Lord for this was the teaching of the law, and “... *by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified*” (Galatians 2:16).

Man cannot be saved today by being baptized to wash away his sins, calling on the name of the Lord, “*for as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse ...*” (Galatians 3:10). Paul said “*for if righteousness **come** by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*” (Galatians 2:21). Therefore, those who believe they are saved by being baptized to wash away their sins, calling on the name of the Lord, declare that Christ died in vain. We now know **why** Paul did **not** preach the gospel he received from man.

Instead of God saving those who “obey” Him, He tells us that “... *they that are in the flesh **cannot** please God*” (Romans 8:8), and “... *it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe ... we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them that are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*” (I Corinthians 1:21, 23-24).

Since we are not justified by the law [e.g. being baptized to wash away our sins, calling on the name of the Lord], how are we justified [declared righteous]? God must have a reason for declaring us to be righteous. “*The Lord ... will **not at all acquit** [declare innocent] the wicked*” (Nahum 1:3).

Now since “*all have sinned*” (Romans 3:23; 5:12; Galatians 3:22), and since God **will not** declare us innocent, how can He declare us righteous? God said, “*there is none righteous, no, not one*” (Romans 3:10). Since God could **not declare** our righteousness, for we have none; Paul said, “*to declare ... at this time **His [God’s] righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of Him that believeth in Jesus***” (Romans 3:26). **Where** do we see God’s

righteousness? Paul said, "... I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it [the gospel of Christ] is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth ... for therein [in the gospel of Christ] is the **righteousness of God** revealed ..." (Romans 1:16-17).

What is the gospel? "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you ... how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:1, 3-4). "In due time Christ died for the **ungodly**" (Romans 5:6).

What must man do to receive this righteousness of God? For the answer see Romans 4:5, "But to him that **worketh not**, but believeth on Him that **justifieth the ungodly**, his faith is counted for righteousness." God can now justify ungodly men who quit trying to earn salvation by their works but believe on Jesus Christ. Most people believe in "a god" that justifies godly people, however it is "... to him that **worketh not** [quits working], but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly."

The truth is that if we had to be godly in order to be justified we would need no justification. It is the ungodly person who needs to be justified [declared right] and he can be, when he quits working and **believes on Him who justifies the ungodly**. Hear our blessed Lord say through Paul, "to declare **at this time His righteousness**: that He might be just, and the justifier of him that **believeth in Jesus**." As far as man is concerned it is **easy** to be saved, "... him that believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:26). That is why when asked, "what must I do to be saved?" they said, "**believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ...**" (Acts 16:31).

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