

Week 14: The Gospel of Paul vs. Other Gospels

1. The Identity of Paul's Gospel

1) Core Message of Paul's Gospel:

"The revelation of God's righteousness through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ"(Romans 1:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4)

2) Key Features:

- (1) Justification by faith
 - (2) Salvation by grace
 - (3) Freedom from the Law
 - (4) Ministry of the New Covenant
 - (5) Indwelling and guidance of the Holy Spirit
 - (6) Church-centered community as the Body of Christ
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2. Types of "Other Gospels" and Their Problems

1) Galatians 1:6–9

Paul warns that anyone preaching a different gospel is under a curse.

2) Legalistic Gospel

Example: Salvation through works (circumcision, food laws, etc.)

Problem: Nullifies the grace of the cross (Galatians 2:21)

3) Prosperity Gospel

Example: Faith used as a tool for health, wealth, and success

Problem: Denies the suffering of the cross and discipleship

4) Positive Thinking Gospel

Example: Emphasizes human potential and self-assurance

Problem: Diminishes repentance, sin, and sanctification

5) Pluralistic Gospel

Example: Claims there is salvation apart from Jesus

Problem: Denies the exclusivity of Christ and the true Gospel

6) Roman Catholic Gospel (Traditionalism)

Example: Gradual salvation through works and sacraments

Problem: Rejects immediate justification by faith alone

3. Paul's Response to the Corruption of the Gospel

- 1) No foundation other than Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11)
 - 2) A different gospel is no gospel at all (Galatians 1:7)
 - 3) Only a Christ-centered, cross-centered gospel is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18)
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4. Warnings for the Church Today

- 1) A corrupted gospel results in the loss of the Holy Spirit's work and power
 - 2) Without repentance and the cross, churches become cultural and humanistic institutions
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5. How to Preserve the True Gospel

- 1) Bible-centered interpretation (especially Pauline Epistles)
 - 2) Understanding the gospel in the Holy Spirit
 - 3) Discipleship through grace and faith
 - 4) Living in obedient community like the early church
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6. Summary Table

Category	Paul's Gospel	Other Gospels
Basis of Salvation	Grace + Faith	Works, Success, Pluralism
Focus of the Gospel	Cross + Resurrection	Man-centered, Secular Values
Identity of Believer	Justified by Faith	Conditional, Based on Performance
Community	Church as the Body of Christ	Individualism, Denominationalism
Role of the Spirit	Indwelling, Guidance, Guarantee	Absent or Distorted