

Galatians 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Analysis

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Paul's shock is palpable—thaumazō (θαυμάζω, "I am astonished") expresses bewilderment at their rapid defection. "So soon" (houtōs tacheōs) emphasizes shocking speed of apostasy. They are abandoning not mere doctrine but "him that called you"—deserting God Himself.

The verb metatithesthe (μετατίθεσθε, "you are being removed") uses present passive, suggesting ongoing desertion and external influence. They are victims of deception while remaining responsible. God's call came "into the grace of Christ" (en chariti Christou)—grace is the sphere of salvation. To abandon grace for law is to abandon Christ.

"Another gospel" (heteron euangelion, ἔτερον εὐαγγέλιον) uses heteros (fundamentally different kind) not allos (another of same kind). Paul will clarify (v. 7) this isn't another valid gospel but a perversion. There is only one gospel; alternatives are anti-gospels.

Historical Context

The Galatians' susceptibility to Judaizers reflects their cultural background. Celtic tribes were known for impulsiveness and volatility. Having recently converted from paganism or syncretistic Judaism, they lacked theological grounding to recognize subtle error. The Judaizers likely arrived shortly after Paul's departure, presenting

themselves as representing Jerusalem apostles and "completing" Paul's teaching. Their message seemed reasonable: Scripture commands circumcision; the Messiah came to fulfill, not abolish, the law; Jerusalem leaders still observed Torah.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What false gospels (grace plus performance, Jesus plus politics, faith plus self-help) tempt you toward desertion?
2. How can established believers recognize when they're drifting from grace-centered faith toward works-centered religion?
3. Why is theological discernment essential, not optional, for persevering faith in a climate of competing messages?

Interlinear Text

Θαυμάζω ὅτι οὕτως ταχέως μετατίθεσθε ἀπὸ τοῦ
I marvel **that** **so** **soon** **removed** **from** G3588
G2296 G3754 G3779 G5030 G3346 G575

καλέσαντος ὑμᾶς ἐν χάριτι Χριστοῦ εἰς ἔτερον
him that called **you** **into** **the grace** **of Christ** **unto** **another**
G2564 G5209 G1722 G5485 G5547 G1519 G2087

εὐαγγέλιον

gospel
G2098

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 11:4 (Parallel theme): For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Isaiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Psalms 106:13 (Parallel theme): They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:

1 Timothy 1:3 (Parallel theme): As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

Acts 15:11 (Grace): But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

1 Corinthians 4:15 (References Christ): For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Romans 10:3 (Parallel theme): For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Galatians 5:4 (Grace): Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

1 Timothy 1:14 (Grace): And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 2:14 (References Christ): Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.