

Gospel Rescue

Review

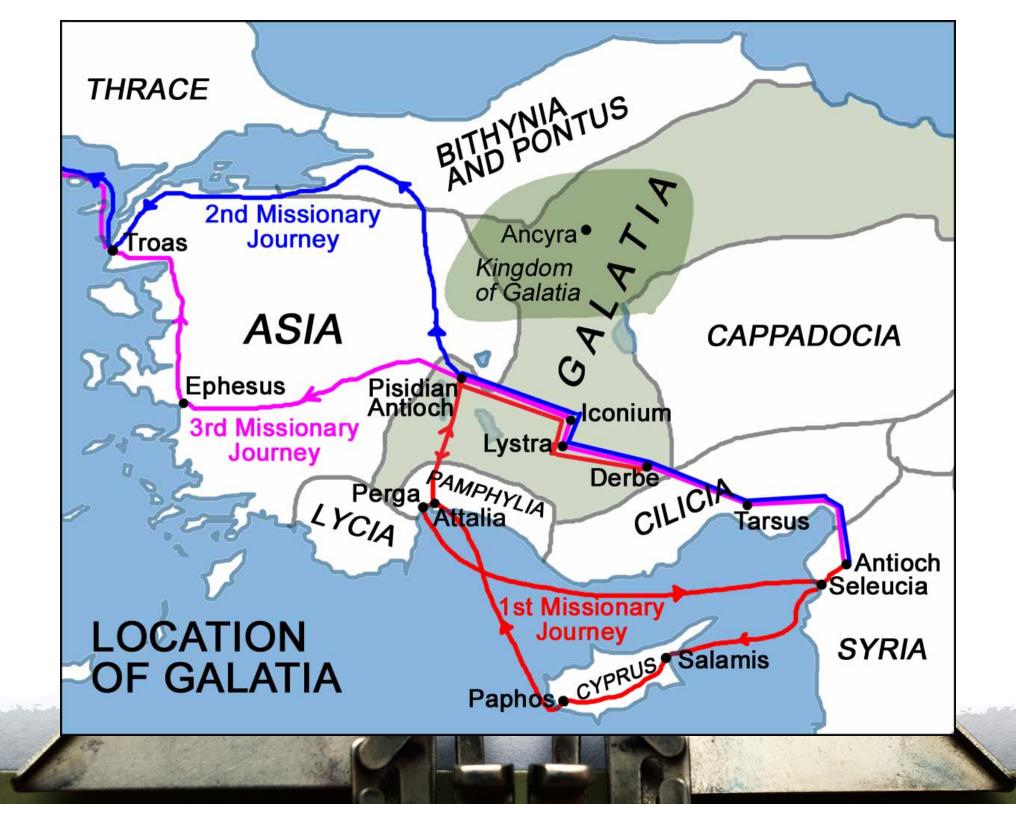
The issue at hand was whether or not someone who was not a Jew could be saved. How does a gentile become a covenant member with Israel and share in the blessings of a covenantal relationship?



Review

The four requirements James bound upon the Gentiles are halakah based on commands found in the Mosaic Law. In Hebrew, halakah literally means "the path one walks." Each of these commandments was based on ancient requirements found in the Law of Moses for a "stranger" who desired to live among the tribes of Israel.





Credentials

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers and sisters with me, 1:1-2



Credentials

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers, vs 13-14



The Problem

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. vs 6-7



What is the Gospel?

Why does altering it matter?



The term gospel is an old-English form of "good news," which stems from the Greek word euaggelion. Prior to the Middle Ages, the term gospel didn't exist. The Greek term euaggelion is of importance here. Prior to Christianity, the term euaggelion had as much or more meaning and emotion in Roman culture as gospel has in Christianity today. The Romans proclaimed euaggelion to announce a new Caesar or a birth of a divine heir to the throne.



the gospel is good news, but that doesn't address Paul's impassioned plea But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! vs 8-9



In order for the Gospel to be good news you have to understand the bad news



The Bad News

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-3

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

- All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; Isaiah 64:6
- But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money,
 boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents,
 ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous,
 without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,
 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than
 lovers of God— 2 Timothy 3:1-4
 - If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8
- Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.



Unless you understand the bad news, the good news isn't very good, its actually rather inconvenient

If you alter the gospel you alter God



"Just as Christ was crucified between two thieves, so the gospel is ever crucified between two errors."

Tertullian, 200 AD

Legalism (religion)

What we do does not matter as long as we believe rightly

Behaviour

Belief

Legalism is pursuing good works with the intention of earning God's favour

Antinomianism (irreligion)



(1st Gen) Only Jesus-Jesus as Saviour (2nd Gen) Jesus and-Jesus as culture (3rd Gen) Jesus if-Jesus as schedule

After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Judges 2:10



The Gospel Transformation

He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:16

If you alter the Gospel you alter its power to transform



Are you now ready to say that you are a Christian?

I don't feel good enough

"At once I know that they are still thinking in terms of themselves; their idea still is that they have to make themselves good enough to be a Christian. It sounds modest but it is really a lie of the devil. You will never be good enough, no one is. The essence of Christian salvation is to say that He is good enough and that I am in Him." Dr Martin Lloyd-Jones



I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, Isaiah 61:10a

Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you."

Zechariah 3:3-4

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Luke 11:22



The Gospel in Three Parts

1 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by 2 Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without 3 blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Colossians 1:21-23