

Adding to and Subtracting from the Gospel of Grace

Acts 20:24

But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

- Any time the Gospel is altered, either by adding to it or subtracting from it, it loses its effectiveness.

Galatians 5:4

You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

ADDING TO THE GOSPEL

- Adding to the Gospel can sound like the real Gospel.

Kings 14:25-27

Now it happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. ²⁶ He took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house, and he took everything, even taking all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. ²⁷ So King Rehoboam made shields of bronze in their place, and committed them to the care of the commanders of the guard who guarded the doorway of the king's house.

- Adding conditions to the Gospel (Galatianism) is perverting the gospel.

Galatians 1:6-7

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; ⁷ which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

- Adding conditions to the Gospel (Galatianism) is perverting the gospel.

- *The Golden Calf: "This is the God who brought us out of Egypt." Instead of God getting the credit, it was given to the work they produced.*

- *The IFs, ANDs, and BUTs of "Christianity"*

- *Your are forever forgiven...*
...IF you confess your sins continually.
- *You know God & are close to Him...*
...AND now you have to know him "more" and get "closer" to Him.
- *You are righteous and holy...*
...BUT that's only "postitional".

-And the LIST goes ON and on and on!

- DID CHRIST DIE FOR NOTHING???

Galatians 2:21

"I do not set aside the GRACE OF GOD, for if righteousness comes through the law (obedience to the law, following formulas, religious practices), THEN CHRIST DIED IN VAIN."

SUBTRACTING FROM THE GOSPEL

○ **Subtracting from the Gospel leads to gnosticism and anarchy.**

Jude 1:3-4

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

- “Turning” is metatithēmi, “to transpose two things”, one of which is put in place of the other. Thus, these false teachers put lasciviousness in the place of the grace of God. -Wuest
- “Lasciviousness” is *aselgeia*. The *aselgeia* person is he who in the words of Trench “acknowledges no restraints, who dares whatever his caprice and wanton petulance may suggest.” The word “wantonness” best translates it. The meaning of the word partakes of the spirit of anarchy. -Wuest

○ **Grace is NOT freedom TO sin, but freedom FROM sin.**

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

○ **Grace is NOT freedom TO sin, but freedom FROM sin.**

Romans 6:1

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ Such WERE some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. ¹² All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

¹³ Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. ¹⁴ Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “The two shall become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. ¹⁸ Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

○ **Jesus didn't die to make us feel GOOD about sinning. He died to set us free from sin.**

Romans 6:13-14

And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

● **TWO FACES OF SUBTRACTING FROM THE GOSPEL**

- *Those who don't believe sin is any big deal or that it even exists. 1 John 1:8*
- *Those who were born again and got back under law which empowered sin who are now stuck in Romans 7.*

● **Law imprisons us. Grace frees us.**

1 Corinthians 15:56

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

● **WE ARE TAUGHT BY GRACE!**

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

● **Jesus didn't die to make us feel GOOD about sinning. He died to set us free.**

John 8:10-11

Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."