

Are We Preaching “Another” Gospel: A 31-Day Journey toward Rediscovering the Gospel of the Grace of God

by C. D. Hildebrand, 24-7-365 Version 2026

Day 18

ONE SPIRIT

There are a variety of reasons believers feel far from God, but in most cases, it is because they are *estranged* from Him. They’ve fallen from His grace in the true sense of the word. For many years, we assumed this verse was talking about those who were involved in sin and thus fallen from grace, and we did not hear what Paul actually said.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

We falsely assumed that this “yoke of bondage” was sin when actually it is law. Yet there it was in black and white, but we didn’t see it because we had heard it preached so many times that it was sin. Yes, we’d read it on our own, even studied it, but when you’ve heard something one way for a long time, it’s as if you can’t see what is right in front of your face.

Galatians 5:2-4

Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. ³ And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

⁴ You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

I believe that this verse is central to determining what it means to preach “another” gospel. Let me explain. See it as a fill-in-the-blank sentence.

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to _____ by following law; you have fallen from grace.

Not just anything can go in the blank for we are dealing with Scripture here. The only words that can go on this line are those which we have been given freely by His grace. For example:

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to

be saved (Eph. 2:8-9) by following law; you have fallen from grace.

All of us agree with that one, but try some of these: *forgiven* (Col. 2:13), *healed* (1 Pet. 2:24), *be blessed* (2 Pet. 1:3, Eph. 1:3), *know God* (Heb. 8:11), *become God's child* (Gal. 3:2), *go to heaven* (Jn. 3:16), *be holy* (Heb. 10:9). Do you see what I'm trying to demonstrate? These things we receive by grace through faith, not by following laws. I'm confident most of you will agree.

What about this one?

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be close to God by following law; you have fallen from grace.

Almost instinctively and due to our knowledge of Scripture, something rises up within us and declares, "No, we aren't close to God by following laws. We are close to Him because of the blood of Jesus," (Eph. 2:13, Heb. 10:19).

Exactly.

Nonetheless, it is what is taught—that we *need* to and *can* get close or closer to God through following laws and formulas. It's as if we are suffering from some sort of intellectual disorder that allows us to believe two things that contradict each other—a religious version of "doublethink".¹ We believe with all of our hearts that we have been brought close to God by the blood of Jesus, but at the same time, we teach people *how* to get close or closer to God and how to "enter His presence". We've been trained to accept what we call "paradoxes," which cannot possibly be simultaneously true, which cause us to abandon our God-given logic. Only one of these "truths" is really true for if one *needs* to get close or closer to God or to "enter His presence", it means that he is not yet close or close enough or is not in His presence and this means that what Jesus did on the cross was not sufficient to bring us close, and that we need to add to what He did. We teach these conflicting ideas not only in sermons, but in multiple songs which are remembered and recited long after our teachings have been forgotten.

Even worse is our prescription for how to obtain what we already possess, which results in employing certain practices we call "disciplines" and formulas we call "prayer", but in actuality usually become nothing more than law which causes us to feel justified if we follow them and not-quite when we don't, which was my original query when this awakening first tried

¹ 1984, Orwell

to dawn on me—why I felt justified when I prayed and not when I didn't. This brings us back to Paul's warning. When we try to accomplish what we have already been given by grace through faith by following law, we fall from grace, for we thus make our relationship no longer based on grace but on a mixture of grace plus law, which **nullifies grace entirely**.

The blessed truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth is that we are as close to God at our new birth as we can ever be.²

1 Corinthians 6:17

*He who is joined to the Lord is **one spirit with Him**.*

We are joined (glued) to the Lord the day we receive Him. We are one spirit with the Living God. That seems simple enough, but let us continue.

2

One person replied to this statement, "I hope I am not as close to God as I will ever be." I believe this is because we have believed the idea that we can get closer through our own efforts which produces an estrangement from Christ, which makes us feel we aren't close, and so we long to be "closer". When we return to the truth that we are already as close to God as we will ever be, then and only then can we rest in His love.