



The HOLY BIBLE ONE Gospel

Brother Emerson Wilson

Part 1

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Perverting the Gospel

As we begin to look into these texts and update them by the help of God's Holy Spirit to our day and time, I might say first of all that Paul marveled that the believers could be so soon drawn away from the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another.

Somebody asked, "Why did he keep twisting back and forth?" Well, just let me make something plain right quick, my friend. When Paul said, "called away from the grace of Christ to another gospel which is not another," he was nailing down the fact that there is only one Gospel of Christ. Oh, how the world needs to understand this and get this clear in their minds that there is only one Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Paul said that you have been so quickly drawn away from the grace of Christ unto another gospel which is not another. Somebody said, "What is it then?" It is the gospel perverted. I want you to see by the help of God that the words that Paul spoke there are just as true today as they were then. The devil believes and trembles. He knows that there is one Gospel, and he knows that the Gospel has power to deliver men and women from everything that they need-to-be delivered from for all the time that remains. Therefore, since the devil knows that there is only one Gospel of God; and it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, his only hope is to pervert that Gospel.

Man knows well enough that there is only one Gospel. Therefore, the devil could not come along and sell the world another gospel. No, no, my friend, his move has been ever since there has been a Gospel to pervert that Gospel, leave it under the same heading, read it out of the same Book, change it enough that it will kill its power and effectiveness, and still leave a world believing that they believe in the Gospel.

Consequently, we have the sad, sad condition all around us today. Men and women are believing that there is only one Gospel, only one way, only one God, and so forth; but yet they are living lives in a powerless condition with no, victory over sin. They are living on the same level that they lived on in sin before they supposedly ever accepted Jesus Christ.

When we begin to look at Paul marveling that believers should be so soon drawn away unto another gospel, the marvel today is just a little different. The marvel today is that religious folks will not so much as admit that there is such a thing as another gospel. It makes no difference what they believe or how far it is from the Book; people say that it is still the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The devil has somewhat reversed things today: I pray that God will help us to lay hold of some truths here that we need to consider.

Someone may ask, "Well, why are you so fearful? Why are you so stirred about this?" Brother, my heart is deeply stirred when I see a world going down the funnel into a lost eternity and men and women in religion on every side but living with no victory. God is not glorified in their lives, but yet they will talk right back and say that they believe the Gospel. This message needs to be sounded out. The Gospel has been perverted on every side. It is not another gospel, but they have perverted the Gospel till it does not have the power and the effect anymore.

A "Bewitching" Gospel

In Galatians 3:1, he said, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you. . . ." He begins there by using the word "bewitched." Let us see, my friend, how bewitching and how deceiving the power of the enemy really is. All the witch doctors are not in India or Africa. Some of them are Doctors of Divinity standing in the

pulpits, and they are bewitching people just as much as the Scripture said. They are bewitching them to a place where they will not believe the Gospel, and all the time the people are made to believe that they are hearing Gospel truth and that they can stake their eternal soul's welfare on it. May God help us!

Someone said, "Well, Brother Wilson, I don't think you need to get excited. I think the need is to preach the Gospel and get men and women saved." Well, we are going to preach the Gospel; but I am going to clear off a place first.

Brother and sister, we need to realize that everything is not Gospel truth. I say without fear of successful contradiction that a great percentage of what you are hearing in the religious world is not Gospel truth. I want to make it plain right now that I am not speaking against any individual anywhere, but I am speaking against spirits of the enemy that are out to do a work. The devil is sending more souls to hell through religion than he is through any other avenue. Countless millions have their names on church records and are as sure of making hell their home if they would die today as if they were there already. Yet they are going along being numbed and bewitched.

Another Gospel

If you try to talk the Gospel to them, they tell you, "I have no need. Go to that drunkard. Go to that man who doesn't have his name on a church book. I don't need help. Go to him." The religious world needs help today as badly as the rest. If you do not think that it is a marvel today, just begin to really deal with some souls in the religious world and try to help them. The marvel today is that folks will not so much as admit the fact that there is such a thing as another gospel. It can be perverted. The Word of God can be added to or taken away from, but this spirit of the age has done such a work that people are ready to gather it all together and say that it is all the Gospel and we are all the Church.

You cannot find anyone who is preaching another gospel. They are all preaching the Gospel; but just as the Word declares, the Gospel has been perverted. It has been perverted when it will not deal out the results that God has put in His Word.

Therefore, we need to note, my friend, that this deliberate blindness which has come over the hearts and minds of too many people towards the truth speaks of a grave condition. It says loudly that modern churchgoers have been so touched and molded by another gospel that they refuse to admit its existence.

Right there is the first deception, whenever the devil sells you such a bill of goods and causes you to believe that which is contrary to the Word of God. The devil has so deceived some people that they refuse to believe that their perverted gospel is anything different from the Book even though it reads differently and teaches differently from the Book. They defend it as the Gospel of God and refuse discussion about it.

Now here is your bewitching. You can deal with people today who are just as far off the track as they can be religiously. They are still sucking on their old cigarettes. Some of them are still drinking beer and delving in other worldly things; but they have been taught a gospel, and it is Gospel truth as far as they are concerned. When you get ready to put the Word right on them, they say, "Look, I don't even want to discuss it." Well, the devil has done a good job there. This is what I am talking about. May God help us to see the sad condition that mankind is in!

Satan through religion has perverted the big things in righteousness, and our world has a twisted concept of the very essence of the Gospel. The results of it are easy to see. The inspired Scriptures are not the final word. No, people today will brazenly tell you, when you read the Scripture to them, that their church does not teach that; but if you would turn around and tell them that is "another gospel," they would say, "No, it is not another gospel. It is THE GOSPEL." The results are that the inspired Scriptures are not final. In fact, the Scriptures are quite hostile to such people.

If you want to "burn up" a religious person, just put some straight truth on him. Man, he will get hostile, even though the Gospel is what will save him. Yet you put the Gospel on him, and he will become hostile. He will let you know what kind of a spirit he has. This great Gospel of Jesus Christ will still uncover every spirit. It will show us what we really are. In fact, that is what the Gospel is for first of all to show us our true condition. There are two things that the Gospel of God will do. It will show you your true condition first. Secondly, it will show you a way out of it.

The Gospel will not pat you on the back when you are wrong. The Gospel will not make a way for you when you are not right. When your attitude is wrong and old ugly feelings down in your heart are manifesting a wrong spirit, the Gospel will not make any room for you.

In our Scripture text, we see that Paul is talking about how the enemy, working through the realms of religion, has switched mankind to another gospel and has caused them to pervert the very Gospel of God. I say again that the false teachings of religion have perverted many of the big things of righteousness. The very nature of God Himself has been substituted. The false teachings of religion cause you to feel that God will put up with and go along with things that His Gospel is totally against.

Sinners, religious or otherwise, are talking about the love of God. I have thought much on this lately. You never saw a world that hangs so much on the love of God. Sinners without any religious affiliation and religious sinners will grab for that one straw—the love of God—when you go to put the heat on them. According to the Bible, anyone who is not regenerated knows nothing about the love of God. No one knows about the love of God unless he has been born again. A sinner knows nothing about the love of God, but we have unregenerate men from the pulpit right on down telling all about what God loves. Unless you have been born again, you are as ignorant about the love of God as a hog is about Sunday.

Let us get right to the Gospel. This may be a little rough, but it will not hurt you. When God uses a dusting rag on the Church, it is a sword. That is a pretty rough thing to dust you off with, but He will get the dust off if you will hold still; and if you do not hold still, He may take an ear off or something else.

We have an unregenerate world standing right up in battle and telling you and me what the love of God is. I want this driven down securely: No one knows anything about the love of God until he has been born again and is living in Christ Jesus

From Roman Catholicism right on through the realms of Protestantism and to the many religious sects and cults of our day, they are all telling you about the love of God. Yet right in the same breath, they tell you how they sin and everyone sins. If you still live in sin, you know nothing about the love of God.

God is love. That is His very nature, but this perverting of the Gospel by men who know, nothing of the love of God endeavors to drag Him down to a human level when they begin to tell you how God loves and what God loves. May God help an old-time Church of God preacher somewhere to raise up and tell the world that God is angry with the sinner every day. You do not have the love of God abiding on you when you commit sin. Read 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. The wrath of God abides on you when you commit sin.

Even bumper stickers now say, "Smile. God loves you." Somebody said, "Don't you think He loves the world?" Certainly, He does; but I am talking about experiencing and knowing the love of God to the place where you are able to get up and give directions and tell people what God loves and what He hates. Certainly, God loves the world; but let us find where the love of God really is. The Gospel will tell us where the love of God is.

Friend, somebody needs to open the Gatling guns of truth against this devilish thing. I pray God will drop a spiritual bomb and blow it wide open so that men and women can see what a sad condition they are in. Somebody asked, "Are you sure that no sinner knows the love of God?" I am positive of it. Certainly, God has a love for them; but I want to make it plain that no one knows anything of the love of God until he has been truly born again and regenerated.

Paul said in Galatians 1:15, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, (16) To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood."

John 3:16, the golden text of the Gospel, says that God so loved the world—a world of lost humanity—that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him (the Greek says "into Him") should not perish, but have everlasting life. How much did God love them? This verse shows us the degree of His love and the immensity of His love. God's love was wrapped up in Jesus Christ. When we turn Jesus Christ and His Word down, there is nothing but the wrath of God abiding on us. God's love is in Jesus Christ!

Romans, Chapter 8, is sometimes read to try to strengthen the feeble knees of sinners and make them feel that they can go on in their sin. They are told by many preachers that if they profess an experience with God, the grace of God will cover them; and they will never be lost. That is a doctrine that comes from the pits of hell. There are no such statements as that in the Gospel; but oh, this Scripture in Romans 8:38 is misused so

many times: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Where is the love of God? It is in Jesus Christ. If you are not in Jesus Christ, you do not know anything about the love of God. When you come in old-time repentance and are born again, you are grafted into the living Vine and baptized by one Spirit into Jesus Christ. When you get into Jesus Christ, you begin to know what the love of God is.

Someone may say, "Why, he said right there that nothing will separate you." He nailed it right down that if we will stay in Christ, nothing can separate us from the love of God. When you are born again, the Spirit of God sheds abroad the love of God in your heart; and when you stay in Christ, there is nothing that can separate you from the love of Christ. However, you can separate yourself from Christ.

In 1 John 3:1 we read, "Behold, what manner of love the Father bath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." We become as different to the world as Jesus was. This old thing of fusing the Church and the world together is an act of Satan. He has tried to work it all down. through the ages, but real salvation makes you and keeps you as separate from the world as Jesus Himself was. The reason why you are different is that the love of God has been shed abroad in your heart. His divine power. We are made a partaker of His divine nature. Right there we begin to know the love of God. I can tell you right now that you have never seen the first born-again person fight holiness. You have never seen the first born-again person that wanted to commit sin. When the love of God is shed abroad in your heart, you will love the things that God loves. Yes, you become a partaker of His divine nature.

A False Love of God

Let us go back to our text. According to the Apostle Paul, my friend, another gospel has completely changed the definition of God's love. This is sad, but it is true. God's love today according to religious derelicts is a growing toleration.

Now let us just lay it out like it is. The farther we go, the filthier that which calls itself the Church becomes and the more her people look like Jezebels. They are so much like the world that no one can tell where the world stops and the Church starts; but all the time they are setting this image up as the love of God getting greater. They feel that the love of God is getting greater in that it is tolerating more and more.

I can prove to you by the Gospel that the love of God will have less toleration the farther you go with God and the straighter and more narrow your life will get. Furthermore, you will love it that way. People who are filled with the Holy Spirit love the naked truth sharp and straight just like it is.

First Corinthians 13:6 says that charity rejoiceth in the truth. It does not rejoice in iniquity; but this thing which is being set forth as the love of God today is declaring it to be a growing toleration of more and more of that which is questionable, polluted, filthy, and vile.

With this false love comes an animosity and a hatred for any true servant who thunders out the Word of God as it is. Isn't it a strange thing that they can love everything from the darkness of Roman Catholicism clear on through! They have a love that will cover all the filth and ungodly, but let a man walk up who will lay the truth out as it is, and they will hate that individual.

Let us put the test where it belongs, my friend. There is a hatred that rises up against a servant of God who will still thunder out the words of God that say, "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). In the Gospel, God lets us know that if we are going to understand and possess His love, we must also possess His holiness. The same divine power that quickens us into a new life sheds the love of God abroad.

"Another gospel" which Paul talks about has made such a deep impression on the hearts and minds of people. In fact, too many of those who claim to be God's people even accept the thought of another gospel; and when one cries out against it, they say that he is not manifesting love.

Someone said, "Do you really think God's people are affected by that?" It is pitiful; my friend, when we consider this great move called Key '73 which was nothing more than a production of this very false image of love that I am talking about. Many of the very people of God have been swept away with the movement

that claims to be the Church of God. They have joined ranks, and now they will get red faced if you stand up and preach a separate Gospel that separates a people from sin and false religion.

Brother, you can talk all you want to about Roman Catholicism raising up one of these days; and she is going to raise up one of these days and do just what the Bible says—she will swallow up all her daughters. However, she will not have to have any guns to swallow them up. This thing that I am preaching about has laid the groundwork and opened up the way. Brother, Rome is not going to have, to raise up and make the Protestant come home. Brother, they are walking back home under the deception of this thing. Protestantism is walking right back into Roman Catholicism.

Someone said, "Brother Wilson, don't you know that isn't the way to win the world?" This is what I am preaching against. "Another gospel which is not another" has worked on the minds of more people than we are ready to realize. I can bring it right down closer. Somebody said, "We did not make any moves to support Key '73." Well, that same spirit works on you when the Bible definitely tells you how to dress modestly, and you want to hike yours up two or three inches higher than you should. You are not abiding by this Gospel. You have "another gospel," and you are perverting the Gospel of Christ. It is the same old spirit.

My friend, the Word and the Spirit of God send forth a message to tell you to lay hold of some things that are not conducive to Christianity and to get them out of your life, get them out of your home, and get rid of them. Then, along you come with the idea that you can still be a saint and hang on to these things. You say, "I will live my life." Brother, that is not this Gospel; that is "another gospel."

Somebody said, "How are we going to tell the difference?" I will tell you before we get through. "Another gospel" has made such deep impressions on the hearts and minds of the people that many even of God's people will not accept the thought of another gospel. I do not make a hobby of preaching against false religion; but when God says preach that message, I preach that message. When you stand up and cry out against false religion, people say that you are not manifesting love. This modern worldly religious love accepts everything and everybody but those who obey the Gospel.

I know the Revelation is going to be fulfilled, but I want to say again that it is not going to take any power from Rome to swallow up Protestantism. She is walking right into her arms. All it took was a false teaching on love. May God help us to get our eyes open!

Part 2

A Sinner Cannot Love Jesus

Let us just read from the Bible what walking in love is. According to most people, "walking in love" would be never to raise your voice against any other religious system whatsoever. Just love everybody regardless of what they teach. No matter how much it contradicts the truth, go right along with them.

Non let us see what the Bible says that walking in love is. In Ephesians 5:1 we read, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; (2) And walk in love. . . ." Now, here is walking in love, and you cannot walk in love if you are not children of God.

Somebody said, "Why?" You are not in love. Someone said, "I am a sinner, but I love Jesus." Do not lie. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." There is no sinner who loves Jesus because he cannot love Jesus. He cannot love Jesus because he does not have the ability. Brother, it takes a God given ability to love Jesus.

Read 1, 2, and 3 John. We love Him because He first loved us. If He did not first love us, we could not love Him. Brother, we have to have His love shed, abroad in our hearts. I am not hurting the sinner. I am your friend.

I know you may reach out and in a human way say, "I love Jesus"; but let us get to the Bible. The devil will deceive you with the thought that although you are a sinner, you still love Jesus and since you still love Jesus; He loves you. Therefore, you go on in sin hoping everything will be all right.

Now what are you going to do with the Scripture which says that God is angry with the wicked every day (Psalms 7:11)? Now, I do not want to hurt you. I want to tell you the truth. Friend, if you are a sinner, you have some moving to do; and you need to do it today. You are in a dangerous position.

Let us look at Ephesians 5:1 again, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; (2) And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us." Brother, when you walk in this love, you have the same kind of love for Christ and His cause as Christ had for you. He carried out God's will completely step after step; and when you get that love in your heart, you will keep His commandments. You will carry out His will in your life.

Love Covers a Multitude of Sins

Let us read on in verse 2, "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (3) But fornication and all uncleanness. . . ." Now people want to pat Rome on the back with the priests living with their handmaids. My friend, right out in the religious world from the preachers on down, they are living in fornication and committing adultery. Yet people put their arms around them and bring them right on in under the assumption that the love of God covers it all.

Somebody said, "The love of God covers a multitude of sins." It will do it when you confess it. Right there is when the love of God covers, but the love of God does not cover a multitude of sins and iniquities out here that are alive and being carried on every day in the hearts and lives of men and women.

You can be loaded down with sins and have committed every sin in the catalogue; but if you come in old-time repentance and mean business with God, the love of God will cover it and remove your sins as far as the east is from the west never to be remembered against you again.

You may ask, "How do we walk in love?" Verse 3 said, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness" How many are loving God and almost shed tears when they have to give Him that ten percent? Some will say, "Man, look how much I gave Him." Isn't that something! Then, you turn around and sing, "I love Him. Oh, how I love Him! I love Him with my whole heart, soul, mind and strength," but the Lord do not ask for eleven percent.

Let us just preach the Gospel on what walking in love is. "But fornication, and all uncleanness . . ." means those little off color jokes that are told by people claiming to be saints. There is already something wrong with you, and something wrong with the listener, if you have to throw a little dirt in it to make it funny.

All uncleanness includes every unclean habit. Brother, the old tobacco habit goes, the drink habit goes, and the dope habit goes. The Gospel still says, ". . . let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1). Praise the Lord! I am glad that these unclean habits can go. I used to be bound with an old, unclean tobacco habit.

I read an article the other day, and I really rejoiced in it. Several years ago a tobacco company handed out samples at a certain high school and with them a little piece of paper which said, "Here is a sample of our cigarettes. We hope you enjoy them; and if you will write us, we will send you some more."

One Christian young man took the sample. This happened to be in the spring of the year; and there were many bugs on his roses, so he put it in water, boiled it down, and sprayed the roses. It killed every bug. He wrote back and said, "We certainly enjoyed your tobacco; and if there are any more bugs alive next spring, I will send for some more."

Well, the tobacco is for the worms. Somebody said, "As sure as God puts it here, it is for us to use." Brother, it is good. It will worm a horse. You give them a good shot of tobacco in the spring, and it will take the worms right out of them. However, all you need to do is misuse it as men use it on their bodies; and it will take the lungs right out of you.

Let us stay right here a little bit, even if I do not get any farther than this thought of walking in love. The Book of Revelation tells you that the voice of the beast and the voice of the false prophet are sounding out, "Love, love, love, God loves everything." Well, He loves the world. He loves you as a sinner so much that He gave His Son to deliver you. The love of God will cover a multitude of sins, thank God, and break every sinful habit and defeat every Satanic power.

Let us go a little farther in Ephesians, Chapter 5. Verse 3 says, "All uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; (4) Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking. . . ." It is surprising how much foolish talking people can do, and they cannot say anything for the Lord. Do you know that you are justified or condemned by your words?

The rest of verse 4 says, ". . . nor which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. (5) For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (6) Let no man deceive you with vain words. . . ." Vain words are anything contrary to the Bible.

Brother, this thing of the grace of God covering your sinful condition after you confess Christ is a perversion of the Gospel. It is a work of Satan. God paid a big enough price to clean you up and to keep you clean. Thank God, His Church is without spot or blemish or wrinkle or any such thing. The Church is not a building somewhere. It is a people who have been saved by God's grace and who have been made new creatures in Christ Jesus.

Goodness, Righteousness, and Truth

Verse 6 says, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. (7) Be not ye therefore partakers with them. (8) For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (9) (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.)"

Now, there are some things that I may have to do that you will never have to do to be a Christian, and there are some things that you may do that I may never have to do. Some things are individual matters. Some things are conscience matters. However, when it comes down to what I am dealing with here, salvation works the same in every person. When you have been born of the Spirit of God, the fruit of the Spirit of God will produce in you goodness, righteousness, and truth. That is what the Spirit of God will produce in every one.

Verse 10 says, "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. (11) And have no fellowship with the unfruitful. . . ." The unfruitful are those who are not bearing the fruit of the Spirit—goodness, righteousness, and truth. Now let us just read the record as it is. Verse 11 goes on to say, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Somebody said, "That's strong stuff!" Well, the Gospel is strong! God's people like it strong.

Friend, if you have been born of the Spirit of God, you will be producing the fruit of the Spirit righteousness, goodness, and truth. The Bible says that anyone who is not producing that is unfruitful. The reason why they are unfruitful is that they are still in darkness. They are doing the works of darkness. Anyone who is a Bible student knows that the works of darkness are sin.

John made it plain in 1 John 1:5: ". . . that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness [or still walls in sin], we lie, and do not the truth." Praise the Lord!

What Fellowship Hath Righteousness With Unrighteousness?

Let us read another familiar Scripture, 2 Corinthians 6:14: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he the believeth with an infidel? (16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate. . . ."

Now this spirit that I have talked about perverted the Gospel. The only thing that many of those teachers can see in that Scripture is the marriage relationship. However, I want to tell you as one who loves your soul that the basic principles of truth found in that Scripture are not dealing with the marriage relationship. Nowhere in the Bible are you told to leave an unbelieving companion.

Paul would not cross himself up. Read 1 Corinthians, Chapter 7. Paul said that if a brother has an unbelieving wife and, if she be, pleased to dwell with him, stay with her. Likewise, if a woman hath an unbelieving husband, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, stay with him, because by your living for God and living the Christian! life, you will win the husband (or wife as the case may be). Therefore, Paul is not talking about the marriage relationship in 2 Corinthian 6:14.

The second reason that I know Paul is not talking about the marriage relationship is because he sat "Come out from among THEM." How many wives do you have? How many husbands do you have? The Scripture says, "Come out from among *them* and be ye separate.

Now who is he talking about? My friend, go right back to verse 14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: [he gives the reason] for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. My friend, you get yoked together with unbelievers when you join lodges, man-made churches where man opens the door, and human organizations of any kind where believers and unbelievers are yoked together. Well, how are they yoked together? Let me explain.

Let us suppose that my buddy and I are both sinners and we go to a revival effort. My buddy hears the Gospel, gets under conviction, goes down to an altar of prayer, and prays through. The minute that he prays through, his name is written down in the Lamb's Book of Life. He is a member of God's Church by one Spirit. He has been baptized into one body, the body of Christ. He is in Christ. He knows the love of God. Thank God, old things have passed away; all things become new. He is a new creature. The things he used to want to do, he does not want to do anymore. He has new desires.

Well, they finally pulled at me and got me down to the altar; but I did not get saved. They asked me if was satisfied, and I was satisfied just to stay like I was. So we go right along. My buddy was born into the family of God, and he is a righteous individual; but I am still unrighteous. Now, my buddy is not yoked with me in any way. However, one Sunday morning they decide to open the church doors and to take in all the converts who had been to the altar. When they opened the church doors and took us in, my buddy became yoked with an unbeliever. Now, what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? My buddy and I have been friends for years, but Wednesday night comes; and he says, "I'll pick you up. We are going to prayer meeting." I say, "Prayer meeting! You have holes in your head. I'm going to the bowling alley."

Man, what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness! This is the thing that is wrecking every human organization on the face of the globe. It is the thing that is putting the pressure on the saints who are in those human organizations until they either have to come out, or they have died in the struggle to survive.

What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? The righteous people in those places will rise up and say, "I make a motion that we have Wednesday night prayer meeting like we used to. Let us have a testimony meeting. Thank God, I feel like shouting." About that time an elder will rise up and say, "Look, boy, we don't need prayer meetings. We need another soup supper. Let us have Friday night ice cream socials. We aren't going to win the world with prayer meetings. Let's have a hamburger fry."

What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? What concord hath Christ with Belial? When God saved you, you became the temple of the living God; and here is a fellow over here who is just worshipping an idol. How can you get along with an idol worshiper? Second Corinthians 6:17 says, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord. . . ."

Somebody said, "Is that what the Gospel says?" That is what the Gospel says. You are listening to a preacher who has vain words when he tells you to go right back down and dabble around and hook up in a united effort with old Babylon. Babylon was fallen 50 years ago, and her fallen condition is worse today than it ever was. You will never help her by joining ranks with her when the Gospel says, "Come out of her. Be ye separate. Touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you unto myself." Thank God, I especially love that last part.

Somebody said, "Brother Wilson, the ministry won't receive it when you preach that." Well, God will receive it because He said, "I'll receive you unto myself, and I'll be your Father; and you'll be my sons and daughters."

The Saints Shall Judge the World

Paul speaks of "another gospel." These "other gospels" tell us that God is love, and love does not judge anyone. Did you ever hear that love does not judge anyone? Can't you see the devil in these statements? Man, the devil wants a free hand. That is exactly what he wants. He is doing all his dirty work, and he wants a free hand. The devil knows that he could not walk up to holiness people and say, "Now look, don't you put any more judgment on me." Why? They would blister him worse than ever; so the devil slips around in a sly manner and says, "Look, here is the love of God; and if you really have the love of God, you will never judge anyone." Isn't that something!

What are you going to do about 1 Corinthians 6:2, "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" Also, what are you going to do about 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2, which says that you have received the mind of Christ through the Spirit and you judge all things, yet you are not judged of any man. Why? No man can judge spiritual things unless he has been regenerated.

When you go to laying truth down, people get stirred. They bring up the Scripture, "Judge not that ye be not judged"; which we want to read in its context. This is exactly what the devil wants no judgment put on anything. It is in the spirit of the age. This is the very move our nation is making no judgment put on any thing.

Let us face it. A big percentage of the people do not want the law enforced today. Let a man carry on all he wants to, let him walk up and talk back to a police officer, let him even slap the officer on the face and black his eye, but that policeman must not raise a club or do anything. Well, I say that the law needs to be enforced; if I break it or you break it. The law needs to be enforced. Away with this lawless business!

Let us go a little further. Somebody said, "The Bible said not to judge." It certainly did, but let us see who the Scripture is speaking to. Praise the Lord for His goodness! Man, I love this truth. No man anywhere can preach it too straight for me to enjoy it because I have something down inside of me that just reaches out for the truth of God's eternal Word.

Let us see what the Gospel says about not judging. In Matthew 7:1 we read, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. (3) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? (5) Thou hypocrite"

Now, that may mean you, but it does not mean me. I am no hypocrite. God does not want hypocrites judging. God was speaking to a people who were hypocrites. They were trying to get a mote out of the Gentile's eye when they had a beam in their own eye. They were blind as bats and trying to show the Gentiles light.

Someone said, "Jesus said not to judge because the judgment you put out will be meted right back." Well, I do not mind that. I want you to put right back on me what I preach. Only crooked people do not want judgment put right back on them. Therefore, they do not judge because it will come right back on them; but if you are living right, you can lay judgment to the line. Isn't that what the prophet said, "Lay righteousness right to the plummet and judgment right to the line"?

Someone said, "I think you are wrong when you judge." Well, I am only judging by the Gospel. John 12:48 says, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." It is the Word of God that is doing the judging, not me. However, we realize that when you preach the Word of God, you become a prey. Brother, if they cannot find anything in your life, they will lie about you; but that does not make any difference they lied about Jesus. Matthew 10:25 tells us that Jesus said, ". . . If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?" Also, Jesus said in Luke 23:31, "For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" Well, brother, it is plenty dry now; so there is no telling what will happen. Therefore, do not be fearful.

Somebody said, "Well, you just live for God and leave your brother alone." That is not what Jesus said in these verses. He said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged for whatever judgment you measure out, it will be meted to you again." Also Jesus said, "Why beholdest thou the mote in thy brother's eye when you have a beam in your own eye?" The Gospel said to get the beam out of your own eye and make sure your life is clear. Then, go to work on the mote in your brother's eye. Then, you can both see good.

Set for the Defense of the Gospel

These "other gospels" tell us that God is love, and God does not judge anyone. "Other gospels" do not censor any other system, nor condemn, nor make any sincere person (no matter how much of a sinner) feel left out. That is the reason we do not get anyone in. You have to make them feel left out first. As long as they think they are in, you will never get them in. "Another gospel" does not exclude any religious person from doing his thing as long as he allows us to do our thing. This is the love that lets you go ahead and believe like you want as long as you let us believe like we want. They say, "We will let you do your thing." Well, do you know what the thing is that they are doing? You can read it in verse 7 of our text. They are perverting the Gospel of Christ.

Every true child of God is set for the defense of the Gospel, just as Paul said in Philippians 1:17. You cannot go along with this spirit that says, "You do your thing, and I'll do my thing." No, it is needful to cry out judgment.

Let us read it again right from our text in Galatians 1:6, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: (7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. (8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

Now why did not Paul use that kind of love that you are talking about? Why did not he say, "Let those with 'another gospel' do their thing and I'll do mine?" No, Paul stood in defense of the Gospel. He said that if I come preaching or an angel come down from heaven (There is not any man who has that high a calling.) and preach any other gospel, let him be accursed.

Now I want to ask again, "Why wasn't Paul more loving?" Well, the reason for it was that the Gospel was perverted. What a task we have on our hands. I speak to the Church from a heart that is stirred deeply. I do not know about you, but I cannot play Church. I cannot work at this thing unless I work at it in an effective manner.

Quickened to a New Life

Friend, I am grieved when I see the pitiful state that people are in. We are called into funeral services and other places where men and women are just sitting in the shell of religion. You can talk about the Gospel all you want to; but the enemy of souls has worked in such a deceptive manner that when you so much as mention the Gospel, people say, "Well, that is what we believe too, preacher," and go right on their way in a lost condition to a devil's hell.

Friend, we are going to have to get down to finer points. We are going to have to get down and define what the Gospel is. When you boil it right down from the very days of Judaism right on through to the production of Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, and to all these evening-light sects and cults, it all comes back to one thing of perverting the Gospel of Christ. You cannot preach the Gospel of God and produce anything but the Church of God. To produce anything else, you have to pervert the Gospel. You have to pervert the Gospel to produce more than one body of believers anywhere around the globe. Brother, when the Gospel is preached and lived, they will have love and care one for another. There will be no factions, divisions, divisive spirits, hatred, or malice working whatsoever.

Someone said, "That sounds like the Gospel is powerful." Paul said in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God. . . ." Do you know what you are thinking when you think that it is the power of God? Let us get the power of God back into the thing.

When Paul talked about his conversion, how did he bring it up? You know what Paul was. He fought the Church of God. He persecuted and wasted the Church of God, and he made great gain in his religion. It was great to him. However, Paul met God on the Damascus "pike."

In the Galatian letter, Paul talked about his conversion as "when God who separated me from my mother's womb." Isn't that a good way to put it? Those are the same terms which Nicodemus brought up when Jesus told him that he must be born again. Brother, it was God who put life within you, the God who separated you from your mother's womb and changed you from one kind of life to another. Brother, when you were in your mother's womb, you lived on a life there; and when the cord was clipped, and you were cut off from your mother, it was God who looked on you and gave you life. Thank God, that same God will cut you off from your old life in sin and will switch you over to a new life in Jesus Christ.

When He makes you a new creature, you live differently. It is not men shaking holy water over you, not men shaking your hand, not men writing your name down on a card and handing it to you, and not men sitting in a confessional box listening to you tell about the filth of your life. No, it is an act of God. The same God who separated you from your mother's womb and enabled you to live physically, that same God will quicken you to a new life in Christ Jesus and give you power, thank God, to say no to the devil and yes to God. Many know that it is so by experience. Praise the Lord!

Part 3

*Galatians 1:3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,
4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

5 To whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Introduction

In previous articles, we found that Paul made it plain that the Gospel which he received was not received of men. After Paul received it, he did not confer with flesh and blood or hold a conference to see whether that which he had was right, but God took him down in Arabia for three years. Then, God brought him back to Damascus right where he first got saved. God brought him right back there a finished product ready to go preach the Gospel. Also, we learned that yet today the enemy of souls has diverted the minds of millions in the religious world 'from the truths of the Gospel of God to a perverted gospel and is making them feel that it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ all the time. We also studied how they have perverted the love of God and made you feel that the love of God would cause you to just put up with anything and never cry out against anything that was wrong in any way.

However, Paul let us know that he was in defense of the Gospel and that if he or an angel from heaven came down here and preached any other gospel, they should be accursed. He nailed it right down there. Someone might say; "Why did Paul make such a strong statement? Why wasn't Paul more loving or more able to cooperate?"

Friend, there is a vital reason. Paul saw this other gospel as perverting God's revealed mind. He saw this other gospel as censoring or revising God. My friend, that business of another gospel has never ceased. Ever since the morning-time Church came forth in all of her glory, first Jesus and then Paul and the other disciples continually warned us to BEWARE OF MEN. When he warns us to beware of men, he is talking of unregenerate men, men who have never been born again but will come into the midst and try to tell you, as we told you, what the love of God is and what the standard of God should be.

Good News for Modern Man?

They will even try to translate God's Word. We are in a day and time when the presses are rolling out new translations of God's Word as fast as they can. In too many cases, my friend, a great part of those translators are men who have never been born again. They do not believe that there is a real hell and do not believe in the virgin birth, and so the "other gospel" keeps right on rolling as the translations come. Generally, the later the translation comes out, the farther it gets from the basic truths of God's Word. We have the revised versions today where the blood is removed, and the vital truths of God's Word that can bring you to a real spiritual experience with Christ are shaded and held in the dark until man cannot get hold of them.

I believe the title of one of them is GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN. I do not have one of them, but I have seen them in the bookstores. I just have this much to say about it: The good news of God's Word is the same for modern man as it was for antiquated man, and modern man does not need any different Bible than anyone else did.

Galatians 3:8 tells us that the Gospel was before preached unto Abraham, the father of the faithful, several hundred years ago. The Gospel is the same down through all ages. Brother, modern man does not need any different news than antiquated man needed. The good news of the Gospel, the relevancy of the Gospel, is like Jesus-it is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The Psalmist said that God fashioned men's hearts all alike, and the Gospel is for the hearts. Abraham's heart is just like yours and everyone else's that ever lived. By this I mean that it takes the same thing to satisfy every heart. Away with this old business that gets in the congregations, "Well, what satisfies you does not satisfy me." If the Gospel does not satisfy you, you are not fixed yet. You need to bring your heart down to

God's garage and let Him take the old one out and put a new one in. Brother, when He puts in a new heart, the Gospel of God just satisfies you. Do not tell me that the Gospel will not cause you to give up stuff.

Abraham lived in Ur of the Chaldees, one of the wealthiest cities in the then-known world. Abraham was a wealthy man and had a fine home, a good reputation, a good occupation, and much property. Go back and study it. However, the Gospel fell on Abraham's ear; and God said, "Abraham, I want you to get up out of your country, leave your people, leave it all, and walk with me." In a few days, Abraham was on his way. Why? There was something about the Gospel that touched the heart of that man and caused something down inside to be touched that could not be touched by all the possessions of this world.

Friend, this thing of people talking about having salvation and hanging on to a little finger ring or a short dress-brother is wrong. They do not have salvation yet. Brother, when you truly are saved, there is nothing too much to give up for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Why? It satisfies the soul. It satisfies the heart. The same God who fashioned their hearts all alike fashioned this Gospel; and when He fashioned this Gospel, He fashioned it to satisfy the longing and the needs of the heart. Glory be to God! Praise His Holy Name!

Therefore, friend, when we begin to talk about some good news for modern man, one of the worst things the devil ever did was get religious folks thinking that you have to have something special for the young people, and something special for the old people. My Bible still says that He fashioned their hearts all alike. It makes no difference whether they are young or old or what age you live in, the Gospel is relevant. It meets the condition in every age whatever the need may be.

The reason why more people are not healed is that they begin to categorize divine healing—"I believe God could do this, but I don't know if He could do that." Brother, divine healing has been laid out. He healed all manner of diseases. Thank God, it is blanket coverage. The same God who healed our bodies is the God who is going to speak a new body into existence one of these days. Brother, if He can speak a whole body into existence, He can make a new member for one of these bodies now if we need it.

Away with this stuff of good news for modern man, you see that it is not very good news at all. Whether you realize it or not, the devil is back of many of these moves; and he knows the power of the Gospel when you leave the Gospel as it is. The devil himself believes and trembles. Therefore, there is only one hope of defeating this precious cause of the Church of God. What is the hope? Get them to pervert that Gospel. Get them to thinking in terms of men. Bring them down from the great level of the greatness of God and get them down to man's level.

They tell me this book is good news for modern man, but I cannot see too much good news about it. Too much of the preaching out of it is not good news. Somebody said, "What do you mean by good news?" Is it good news to tell modern man that he can stay in the ditch and in the horrible pit of sin while it robs our nation of its vitals and disease takes its toll with no physician for body or soul? Brother, there is no good news in that. I thank God that I have better news than that. Brother, when we get back to the straight, old-time Gospel, it will teach you that God will not leave you in the pit and feel sorry for you, but He will bring you out of the pit and set your feet on a solid rock. He will not just comfort you when you are sick; but if you put your faith and trust in Him, He will heal you and deliver you from your sickness. Therefore, it is not such good news after all for modern man until we get right back to the straight Word of God. There beyond a shadow of a doubt we find where the good news is.

Deliverance From This Present Evil World

Now I want to get right to the essence of the Gospel, which we find in Galatians 1:4. He gave Himself for our sins. One person said, "He did not give Himself. He was forced to take the cross." Read the Gospel. Brother, right down at the very hour when they put the pressure on and made Him feel that they were pushing Him around quite a bit, He said that He could call for a legion of angels and clear that whole thing off; but He did not do it. He refused any help. He gave Himself. Don't you forget it.

He gave Himself for our sins, and that is a wonderful thing; but He went a little deeper than that, that He might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our Father. Here we begin to see in the Gospel that God's will and plan through Jesus Christ is to deliver us from this present evil world (from this present age, according to the Greek).

Now, I want you to study with me here. This Scripture, as well as other Scriptures, would teach us that salvation is not primarily to deliver us from a future evil world. Somebody said, "Why do you even bring that up?" Brother, it is wonderful to think about heaven. It is wonderful to think about the hell that you are going to miss, but the primary terms of salvation and the work that Jesus came to bring was a deliverance right here and now.

Too much of this preaching, my friend, is just to get you to serve God so you will not go to hell. No, my friend, that is out in the end. That is future; but there is a present work that He wants to work on your soul right now. You know what false religion teaches, without me spending a lot of time telling you. Using a modern expression, everyone has their thing; and everybody is pushing something in religion. Everyone of them has a certain thing that they are pushing; and if you do not partake of that, you do not have any thing. The truth is there are not too many working to get a people living a life free from sin. Most all of these religions have escape hatches and false clauses in them that will make room for your sins. They let you live right on in the life of sin, claim a great experience, and cause you to believe that somewhere out in the future you are going to make it all right.

Brother, Jesus Christ gave Himself for our sins; and He did it for one purpose. He did not give Himself for your sins to let you go on and live in sin. He gave Himself for your sins that He might deliver you from this present evil world, just as the Gospel says.

Unregenerated Man Follows the Spirit of the Age

It is a most degrading view of redemption to look at it as a fire escape with little effect on your present life. Now, we need to realize that it is the truth, and we will give you Bible to prove it. All mankind short of regeneration and becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus will follow the spirit of the age to a certain degree. Some will follow it in a greater way than others, but all will follow it. If you look into history, you will find that one of the greatest perplexities of history is that the spirit of the age holds such a grip on mankind. The one thing that the historians get so upset over is that even the enlightened and the greatly educated men are affected by the spirit of the age.

I do not often quote anything except the Bible, but let us bring in Shakespeare. Remember our text, "He gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil age." Mr. Shakespeare said, "Men are as the time is. They do what is done. They fall into step with those around them and are swept along by the currents of fashion and customs." Just let the current of customs change, and you will see people who are not living for God carried right along with it.

I am going to stay right with the text, "He gave himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil age or time." Brother, you know that it is true. I will make it a little stronger. Not only are men and women affected who are without an experience of salvation; but also those who have not kept their experience up to date.

This Gospel fit in Paul's age, and this Gospel fits in our age. It fits in every age. It is a relevant Gospel. It is always up to date. This is the strange thing about it. The same old-time Gospel that Paul preached and that fit his age fits our age when it is preached in its fullness.

Somebody said, "I'm not affected by the spirit of the age." Well, when worldly men began wearing their hair long, how come yours crept down over your collar? Now, I just mention that as one thing. The women are affected by the spirit of the age too. Since the miniskirts came, the Church of God pastors have to almost fight to keep the skirts down to the knee. The ladies say, "Oh, we have to have them an inch or two above the knee." However, all it would take is for the spirit of the age to change and to put them halfway down to the ankle, and down the skirts would go. May God deliver us from the spirit of the age! All it takes for the Church of God to do a greater work in this world is to be a little more separate.

Therefore, as Shakespeare said, "Men are as those around them. They are as the time is. They fall in step with the current of the fashions and customs." I know that any preacher would get himself in trouble preaching on fashions and customs, but I just throw it in as I go along for good measure. Brother and sister, we need to get our fashioning fixed on something else.

Somebody said, "I don't take any stake in Shakespeare." Well, let us get a Bible definition of the same thing-that unregenerate man and men who are not spiritual are affected by the spirit of the age. Let us study what Jesus did for us when He died to deliver us. Praise God for it! I am glad for that deliverance which Paul wrote about in Ephesians Chapter 2. In the first verse, Paul was talking about people who had been quickened in the first resurrection. Thank God, they have been lifted from that dead condition in trespasses and sins where they sin more or less every day.

Ephesians 2:2 says, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [the devil], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." Brother, if you are disobeying God, right there is your pedigree; and that is the spirit that has hold of you. You can join all the reformations and movements that you want, you can turn over new leaves till you wear the book out, you can be baptized in water, you can shake the preacher's hand; but until you have been converted and born of God's Spirit and have gotten rid of that disobedient spirit, you are going to follow the course of the world.

Man Cannot Escape the Corruption That Is in the World

I am talking about getting delivered from this present evil world. Let us study this deliverance that there is in real salvation. I want to make it plain as I go along that this gospel that teaches that you still live in sin after you have accepted Christ into your heart and life is another gospel, and it is a perversion of the Gospel of Christ. Jesus suffered for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world.

Somebody said, "That means that in the end He is going to take us all to glory and we will all get out of this world." Well, I will prove to you before I am through that if you live in sin and have never found the real deliverance of salvation before physical death comes on you, you will wake up in hell with this power of sin still working on you. Therefore, deliverance from this sinful world takes more than physical death. It takes something else besides a new body. It takes a real work of salvation in the heart.

In 2 Peter 1:1-4 we read: "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: (2) Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, (3) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Thank God, through a real knowledge of Jesus Christ and through a real experience with God, you are born of God as we studied earlier, and you are made a partaker of God's divine nature. Brother, when you are made a partaker of God's divine nature, there is a wonderful change. You have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Over in 2 Peter 2:18, he speaks of fallen preachers who have gone back on God and who have fallen away from the truth. I want you to see that there is real deliverance for you. II Peter 2:18 says, "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity [if you read the beginning of the chapter, you will see that he is speaking of ministers, false prophets among the people], they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped. . . ."

Now, here is what false preachers will do to you. Here is what false apostles will do to you. If you ever get a real experience of salvation, you have made a clean escape from the pollution that is in the world. If you are not careful, these false prophets get around you; and they speak great words of vanity. They will tell you where all they studied, how much education they have, and how you ought to listen to them because of the experience they have. They will allure you.

Let us read again the Word of God in 2 Peter 2:18, "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. (19) While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. (20) For if after they have escaped [that sounds like they had made their escape and had been delivered] the pollutions of the world through the

knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

That is a powerful Scripture against the doctrine of once in grace always in grace. Brother, you can be overcome and lose this great experience unless you work at it through the things that you need to do to make you spiritual and keep you spiritual. Otherwise, you can be overcome by the very power that you have overcome. The point I want you to get is that they had made a clean escape, but they came back under the pollutions of the world. Now may God help us to see this.

In 2 Peter 1:4, we read, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, [actually born of God] having escaped the corruption that is in the world, through lust." Right here is the sum and substance of the religion of Jesus Christ. What is it? First, when you come in old-time repentance confessing your sin to Him alone, He removes your sin as far as the east is from the west. You are washed by faith in His blood and cleansed from all sin. He takes the old heart out of you with all of its affections and desires and puts a new heart in you. Then, when He puts a new heart in you, you are born of God's Spirit and actually made a partaker of His divine nature.

Also my friend, we have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. The word "lust" is used throughout the Scripture in many different ways. Sometimes it merely means a human desire. Sometimes it is taken for a Greek word that means something that is vile. Here in 2 Peter 1:4 the word "lust" is taken from a Greek word that means an irregular, unreasonable, inordinate, impure desire. We are living in a world that is full of corruption, but the only tie that corruption has to you is the lust that is in your heart for it. In real salvation when God changes your heart, thank God, that lust and desire for wrong things is taken out. When that is taken out, you are delivered from the power of this world.

The Worst Kind of Pollution

Too many, I am afraid, do not understand what lust means in 2 Peter 1:4 when he talks about escaping the corruption that is in the world through lust. Lust here is the desire to have, a desire to do, and a desire to be what God has prohibited. What is this lust? How do we escape the corruption that is in the world? The corruption and the pollution that is in the world spoken of in this verse does not refer to the literal filth.

You know people talk a lot about pollution today. We are getting devices on the cars. They do not want you to burn your trash or start a bonfire, but there are not too many working on one of the worst pollutions we have in this world—sin and ungodliness which are on every side.

Recently, I was in a revival meeting in a certain town. When my wife and I drove through the town, I could not help but notice that every few blocks there were flashing lights of every kind. Also, the building was painted with orange and black stripes and every kind of color to catch your eye. They were showing adult sex movies 24 hours a day. We went downtown to a restaurant that was beside one of these places. I could not help but notice businessmen patronizing these places while they were off at the noon hour, no doubt with somebody else's wife. My friend, they were feeding their minds on the corruptible things that will cause them to think impure thoughts. Within their minds they commit adultery with other women even if they never commit the physical act, and they will be lost in a devil's hell. The sad part is that some of them are Sunday School teachers and maybe preachers going right on in the realms of religion.

Brother, there is deliverance from the pollutions of this world. Brother, the real pollution is the thing that practically no one is crying out against, from top evangelists right on down. Supposedly, they lay the gospel down pretty close; but before they finish their message, they make room for you to sin, them to sin, and everyone else to sin. Brother, they have not cleaned up a bit of the pollution that is in this world. Millions are going forward and making a decision for Christ; and as soon as they leave the altar, they make a decision the other way and go right back to the pollutions and the corruptions of the world.

Thank God, Jesus came to change your life. He came as an escape route where you can escape the pollution and the lust that puts us under the power and this filthy world. Let me say again that this lust is the desire to have, to do, or to be what God has prohibited.

The Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life

The Bible tells us that a sinner does not love Jesus and why he cannot love Jesus. Jesus said that if you love Me, you will keep My commandments. You cannot live in sin and say that you love Jesus. The Bible plainly teaches that we love Him because He first loved us. When we accept His love when we are born again and have the love of God shed abroad in our heart, then we can love Him and prove our love by keeping His commandments.

In 1 John 2:15, we read, "Love not the world. . . ." He is not talking about a world of sinners-unregenerate souls. God so loved them that He gave His only begotten Son. He will tell you what world he is talking about there since the word "world" is used in at least three different ways in the Scripture.

First John 2:15 says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust, of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. [He goes right on and gives you a strong message on salvation.] (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof. . . ." The world passes away and the lust thereof when you are truly converted and get a new heart.

Somebody said, "How do you know?" Well, we read in 2 Peter 1:4 and 2 Peter 2:20 that you have escaped the pollution that is in the world when you get a real knowledge of Jesus Christ in real salvation. What is in the world? All that is in the world, in this sense, is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Now he goes right on and declares that in real salvation, the world passes away and the lust thereof when you gain a real knowledge of Jesus Christ and God changes your heart. Brother, when He puts a new heart in you, you get a new seat of affection. The world passes away and the lust thereof.

Somebody said, "I don't think that passes away till Jesus comes again." Well, read the rest of the verse again. The world passes away and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. There is a great change that takes place. Too many people do not understand the meaning of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. They have their own idea what he is talking about. He tells you that if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Someone said, "What is the lust of the flesh?" Well, it is many things; but just let me hit enough of them so you will know what he is talking about. It is impure desires which seek gratification in the opposite sex, in drink, and in tobacco. Let us get where the lust of the flesh really is. How come you are bound with that habit? Brother, it is something the flesh wants. It can come right on down to eating food if you get bound to it. If the Spirit of God leads you contrary to what the flesh desires, you have a battle on; and you need to do some praying.

The lust of the eyes is inordinate desires after such things as too fine of clothes, too splendid of a house, and too much of a top-notch car. As I told you before, many people do not know what John was talking about in this Scripture. If you are truly the Church of God, this will not hurt you when we come along on these lines once in a while. Brother, we are in a world where men are affected by the world. Unless you stay spiritual, the lust of the eyes will affect you. Man, are there ever things, for a man's eyes to lust on! We are living in a world that is producing more things to lust after than any world that any man has ever lived in.

The pride of life is simply seeking honor. Someone says, "Don't you know who I am?" No, we know no man after the flesh. You are either just a poor sinner who needs God, or you are just a little old "Church of Godder." Somebody said, "Don't you know who I am?" No, and I do not want to learn. "Well, nobody appreciates me"; you say. If you would humble yourself, they would. The pride of life stinks. It spoils the sweet smell. It is not of the Father. No, the saints of God are the most humble people on the face of the globe. I endeavor to preach the Gospel fair and square. You do not have to be poor to be humble. You do not have to wear clothes with holes in them to be humble. No, humility is something, my friend, that comes from the heart.

The pride of life simply means seeking honor, titles, pedigrees, boasting of your ancestors, boasting of your family; and boasting about your children. The pride of life manifests itself when one says, "I think I did a real job of raising my children." If God had not helped you every day, you would not even have had any. I see pride getting hold of people like creeping paralysis. Whenever pride hits them, you have to stretch up

to talk to them. Then, when they raise their voice, they want everybody to hush. I am speaking now about the pride of life. The pride of life is not of the Father. It is of the world.

Let us look just a little further into this deliverance. Ephesians 2:2-3 gives you the same picture as I John 2:15-17. It shows you that men and women who have not been regenerated are still walking under the spirit and power of this world.

Ephesians 2:3 says, "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

Brother, if you will go back to 2 Peter 1:4, thank God, he tells us that we have been made partakers of His divine nature; and we have escaped the corruption that is in the world. Friend, I want you to see something here. We need to realize that there is no way to escape by outward flight. It is pitiful to see men and women leave their companions. Others quit a good job and go clear across the nation. Some even go halfway around the world trying to change their circumstances.

Brother, there is no way you can make an outward flight from this thing. It is an inward condition in the heart of man, and only God can change it. There is no way to make an outward flight or an outward escape. I want to repeat that even physical death is no escape from this lust condition.

Somebody said, "I don't believe it." You look in the Bible where Jesus uncapped hell, and you will find out that the rich man down in hell had everyone of his senses and everyone of his passions still operating. The only difference between here and hell is that if you have enough money here, you can satisfy that desire even though it is carnal, even though it is contrary, and even though it is sinful. You can satisfy it here; but when you wake up in hell, you will have every one of those desires and no place to satisfy them. There is no deliverance in physical death from sin and corruption.

My friend, according to 2 Peter 1:4, this corruption is not only in the world; but it is in you as a sinner by the lust or the spirit of the world. That spirit of the world is in you until you have had a change of heart; and you will lust after the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. When John was baptizing and Jesus walked up, John spoke those faithful words in John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Let us go right back to our text in Galatians 1:4, "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world. . . ." Now we have found out what the world is. All there is in this evil world is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and - the pride of life. That is all that is in the world, and that is what we have been delivered from. Thank God, He delivered us from this present evil world. We cannot read that verse too much.

Part 4

Christ's Perfect Sacrifice

The object of Christ's sacrifice was not only to deliver us from the guilt of sin, but to deliver us from the manifestation of sin in this present world. Somebody said, "I don't see that in that verse." Well, you read Galatians 1:4 again, "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."

Somebody said, "What's that got to do with it?" It was according to the will of God and our Father. Brother, here is salvation in a nutshell. It was by God's will that salvation originated. My friend, it was His will carried out by Christ who perfected the plan. I want you to see what Christ did. I want you to understand what that clause "according to the will of God and our Father" means. Brother, God originated a plan. Jesus carried it out by fulfilling God's will. In Hebrews 10:4 we are told, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. [Those old sacrifices just could not do it.] (5) Wherefore when he [Christ] cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: (6) In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. (?) Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God. (8) Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not. . . ."

He came to do more than just give an offering for sin. Too many people cannot see anything in Jesus but just an offering for sin. Brother, He came to do more than bring an offering for sin. Verse 8 says, "Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; (9) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first [speaking of the old covenant], that he may establish the second. (10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Every time some people read the word "sanctified," all they can think of is a second work of grace. Brother, you need to realize that when the word "sanctified" is used in the Scripture, it does not refer to a second work of grace. It is taken from a Greek word that merely means "set apart unto God," and here the word "sanctification" is taken from the same Greek word. Jesus came to do more than just offer an offering for sin. Brother, Jesus also ordained a plan whereby you can be sanctified—you can be set apart unto God to do the will of God in your life just like Jesus did the will of God in His life. Someone said, "How do you know?" You are made holy. You are set apart unto God. You are not of the world even as Christ was not of the world. You are set apart to do the will of God. Therefore, when Paul uses that expression "that He might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our Father," he meant that by His will salvation originated. By His will salvation was carried out, and Christ perfected it. Are you ready to take it? The outcome of real salvation is that if you have it, you will be doing the will of God here just like the angels carry out God's will in Heaven.

Let us go right back to where the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray in Matthew Chapter 6. How did He teach them to pray? Jesus told them to get in a shape where they could say, ". . . Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth. . . ."

Second Corinthians Chapter 4 tells us that we have this treasure in earthen vessels. What did He do? He offered Himself for our sins, but He did more than just bring a sin offering. He gave Himself in such a way that He might deliver us from this present evil world. We are delivered from it when we get delivered from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Those are the three points that you are tempted on.

How to Overcome

Thank God, you can be an overcomer. My friend, real salvation came to put you in a position where you can live free from sin and do the will of God.

In John 8:34, Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant [or slave] of sin." This lets us see that when we commit sin, it takes root in the heart. It comes alive in the heart and spreads forth, and you become the servant of sin. The Bible teaches us that when you commit sin, you will add sin to sin from that time forth. You will do just what people are doing-sin more or less every day-until you get that sin out of the heart. You can join all the churches on the face of the globe and go through all the rituals of religion, but you will still sin more or less every day until you get the sin out of the heart. He that committeth sin is the servant of sin. Romans 6:12 says, "Let not sin therefore reign, in your mortal body. . . ." The only way that sin can reign in your mortal body is when it is in your heart. Do not forget that this mortal body is just an instrument of the soul. If your soul is saved, there is no sin in your soul; and there will not be any sin in these members either. These members of the body just move according to the directions of the heart or soul.

We need to get the true picture of sin. He said, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Or obey it in sin's lusts). Brother, as long as sin is in your heart, you are going to obey it. You may not do everything the devil says, but he will break down the fibers of your life. You will go from one condition to a worse condition. You never saw anybody living in sin get better. These sinning religions have to stress the false love of God that will cover more and more transgressions. Why? The longer people live in sin, the worse shape they get in. As the Prophet Jeremiah said, "They add sin to sin."

Now, Paul said, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." In the next chapter (Romans 7), Paul will tell you that he committed sin when the commandment came; and he sold himself under sin. He became a slave. I want us to see that when we commit sin, we, are sold under sin. When we are sold under sin, we are a slave to it. We are under the power of it, and there is nothing that is within us that is able to raise up against it. It is greater than we are.

I want to help those of you who are bound with the habits of life. I know that we are living in a day and time when people will take you into their denomination and make you feel that you are a good Christian while you are still bound with the habits of life. Even though it condemns you and you are ashamed to use it around the people of God, yet false religion will be ready to accept you, if you hand a good paycheck in and keep on working to build up that organization.

However, I want you to see what your true condition is. Romans 7:15-17 tells us of Paul's condition while he was in sin and had sin in his heart, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." Now there is a contrary condition. He was doing things that he did not want to do. He did not really allow it, but he did it anyway because the power of sin that was in -his heart was greater than he was.

Verse 16 says, "If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. (17) Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Now, that is people's condition. They would to God that they did not smoke. Others would to God that they did not drink. Some would to God that they did not run after women. Others would to God that they did not do this or that. Oh, you need to see your true condition. When you do something that you do not really desire to do, there is something which has hold of you that is bigger than you are.

Let us read verse 16 again, "If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. (17) Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." You can go to any man's altar and weep over your transgressions and say, "I'm sorry that I did this, I'm sorry that I did that"; but if you do not get down to a deeper work than that, you will go right back and do it again. You need to understand that truth-that it is not you doing it, but sin that dwelleth in you. Brother, as long as sin is in your heart, you will commit sin. As long as sin is in your heart, you will do that which you would not do along many lines.

Somebody said, "How are we going to get free from it?" Well, Paul makes that plain in the following verses. He said in verse 18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing. . . ." Brother, there is not a thing as far as you are concerned and as far as your flesh is concerned that is strong enough to fight that battle against sin. Step by step, Paul pointed it out.

Verse 18 says, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me. . . ." but sin was stronger than his will. Down in verse 22, he said, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man," but sin is stronger than the inner man. (23) "But I see another law in my members,

warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

Sin is stronger than the mind. False ministry today will just tell you that you need to exercise your will power. Man, sin is stronger than your will. Sin is stronger than your mind. You have no good thing in your flesh whatsoever. This thing of reformation is clear out of the question. Sin is stronger than you are. You need to realize, again, that as long as sin is in your heart, you will obey it in the lusts thereof.

Remember Romans 6:12, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Brother, we have to get sin out of the heart; and there is only one way to get sin out of the heart. Get God Goa, put in a new heart. Thank God, when He puts in a new one, there will not be any sin in it. When He takes out that heart, the sinful lusts and the sinful desires will all go.

"Well," somebody said, "Where is our deliverance?" Romans 7:24 says, "O wretched man that I am!" Certainly, that is a wretched individual who is doing that which he does not want to do and cannot do things that he desires to do. This is a perfect picture of men and women under the power of sin.

The good that they would they cannot do; and the evil that they do not want to do, that is the thing they do. Paul went on to say in verse 24, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this [spiritual] death? (25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. . . ." In Chapter 8:1, Paul began by saying, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, Who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Oh, friend, there is real deliverance!

Not Everyone That Saith Lord, Lord

I want you to see that Christ gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world; that we might be able to live according to the will of God our Father. Now, you know that it takes this to go to heaven. Let us just quit kidding around. You sees there are not as many people in real darkness as we think there are as far as religion is concerned. If you think so, you just talk to them a little while; and it will not be long till they will be telling you that they know that they ought to live differently than they do. That is the thing that is getting them in trouble, and that is the thing that is keeping them from greater light.

Now, you can play around all this false religion, and you can let them tell you of their doctrine of once in grace always in grace; but there are serious consequences. If you read in the Book of Revelation, you will find out, that if you keep inhabiting those places where they teach those damnable doctrines and heresies, you will be made to feel that you can live on in sin and the blood of Jesus Christ will cover it all. The Bible says, that if you keep going back there and drinking their wine, you will get intoxicated; and you will stay under the intoxication of that doctrine. However; friend, if you never wake up before, you are going to wake up when the shocks of eternity and the judgment hit you; and you will find out that there is no one going to enter heaven unless he lives holy here.

Jesus finished His great Sermon on the Mount by saying, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). How are you going to get there? You are going to do the will of God. Let us go right back to our text. He suffered and gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world and bring us to an experience where we could live according to the will of God our Father.

Are You Abiding by the Gospel?

Now, let us give the Holy Ghost a chance to check us out as to whether or not we are living by the Gospel. How do I know if I have the Gospel of God or another gospel? First of all, where did you receive it? The Gospel of God is not received of men neither taught by men, but it is received by a divine revelation of Jesus Christ in the heart. Were you prompted by yourself, by other men, or by a revelation of Jesus Christ in your heart to do those actions that you are doing?

Let us bring it down closer. Can you definitely say with heaven and eternity in view that Jesus told you to do what you are doing? We have people doing everything from turning cartwheels to jibber jabbering and foaming at the mouth. Yet they say that Jesus told them to do it all.

Well, this is exactly what He gave us the Word of God for—to try the spirit. Jesus does not tell you to do one thing contrary to His Word. How do we know whether we are abiding by the Word of God or another gospel? Well, where did you receive it? Paul said that he did not receive it of men, and neither was he taught it of men. See Galatians 1:12.

Secondly, how does it affect the Church of God? Paul was living by another gospel when he persecuted and wasted the Church of God; but when he got hold of the Gospel of God, he became a master builder. Now, you are either building or wrecking. We are building, or we are wasting. We are building, or we are destroying. The Gospel of God will make a builder out of everyone who will let it.

Thirdly, whom are you trying to persuade or please? Paul asked this question in Galatians 1:9, "As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (10) For do I now persuade men, or God. . . ." This is a question that we need to answer. Brother, if you are living for this Gospel, you will go out to persuade men for God; but if you are cutting corners, going ways that are your own ideas, and living contrary to the Gospel, you are showing all of us that you are trying to persuade God to change His mind.

Whom are you trying to persuade—men or God? Whom are you pleasing—men or God? The Gospel born of God pleases God, and the gospel born of men pleases men. Someone may say, "Well, a man is wasting his time when he is trying to persuade God." Yes, but the prophets will tell you that men do that. Some men think that God is like them; and if they keep on like they are, God will change His mind and fit the Gospel to fit their fancies. However, Psalms 119:89 says, "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."

Brother, it has been the enemy's move ever since there has been a Gospel to try to get the Book changed to fit man; but the Gospel of God is unchangeable. It is full of relevance. It is able for every situation. My friend, we are not to change the Book to fit man; but to change man to fit the Book. If you will allow God's plan of salvation to work in your life, your life will fit the Book—the divine pattern. May God help us!

Therefore, the very essence of the Gospel is that Christ gave Himself for our sins (that is as far as too many go) that we might be delivered from the terrible bondage which comes with sin. We are in bondage to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life until Jesus comes; then, thank God, we can say that we WERE in bondage to this present evil world, but now, we are delivered from it and are able to live according to the will of God. This is the way that Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Friend, are you living that way? Have you found this great deliverance? It is sad to see so many religious people trying to pull Paul down to their level and say that Romans, Chapter 7, was Paul's Christian experience. However, if you will read it like Paul wrote it, he will tell you that this was his experience before he found salvation. This was his experience when he was a sinner when he spoke of himself as the chief of sinners. Brother, when Paul found salvation, he could write to the Church over and over and say, "Everyone of you know how holily, how justly, and how righteously I have lived in your presence." See 1 Thessalonians 2:10. You can have that kind of an experience, too.

I in no way have preached that you could get to a place where you could not sin. Anyone can sin if he wants to, but the Bible sets forth a great plan of salvation where you can be delivered to the place you do not have to sin. This old thing of "have to, cannot help myself, I'm under the power of it" is what Jesus came to break. He does not make you a righteous robot. You still are a free moral agent. Every day you have to decide whether you are going to follow after the flesh or after the Spirit. However, thank God, when you are born of the Spirit, God gives you power to make the right decision and carry it out. You can say no to the devil and yes to God.

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