

## The Closer Look Series

# A Different Gospel

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! Galatians 1:6-9*

**A**postle Paul warns the church that some will bring a different gospel and condemns all who confuse or pervert the true Gospel of Christ. He also sends a similar warning to Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:3-4). Having been warned, we should make certain we understand the truth and not be fooled by a different gospel.

### The Gospel in the Bible

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and taught them, “*the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*” Luke 24:44-48

Days later Peter publicly declares, “*let it be known to all of you... that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead... this man stands here... by which we must be saved.*” Acts 4:10-12

Acts is filled with such declarations by the disciples of Jesus as the Gospel is carried from Jerusalem to surrounding areas and then to the rest of the world. Apostle Paul’s preaching the Gospel is

predominant in Acts, and most of his Epistles also declare the Gospel.

■ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* Romans 1:16-17

■ *...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to [many] and last of all... He appeared to me also.* 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

■ *For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but {I received it} through a revelation of Jesus Christ.* Galatians 1:11-12

■ *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9

### A Different Gospel

The Book of Mormon “explains its purpose by claiming a “great and abominable church” took away the “most precious parts” of the Gospel of Jesus and His Apostles (1 Nephi 3:167-186). How this was done (with multiple copies of manuscript Gospels and Epistles scattered among hundreds of churches in the Mediterranean world) is never said.

■ Our first hint of a different gospel is the Book of Mormon “fulness of the gospel” reversing the Biblical Gospel that goes first to the Jews, then to the Gentiles.

*...gave him [Joseph Smith, Jr.] power... to translate the Book of Mormon, which book contains a record of a fallen people, and the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles; and to the Jews... D&C Sect. 17:2c-d (see 1 Nephi 3:198-200)*

■ The Book of Mormon subtly adds conditions to salvation by grace, changing it to a works-based salvation: *For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.* 2 Nephi 11:44-47

*Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves all ungodliness, and if you shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness... then is his grace sufficient for you.* Moroni 10:29

More works conditions for salvation such as ordinances only by priesthood authority are added later by Joseph Smith, Jr.

■ The Biblical Jesus preached the Gospel of repentance for forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:44-48). But the Book of Mormon tells of a resurrected Jesus who destroys 16 cities full of sinners, then preaches repentance to the “more righteous” survivors (3 Nephi 4:1-41).

■ Early teachings change the natures of Christ and man: *The Son...fashioned like unto man ...kept the law of God, and remained without sin: Showing thereby that it is in the power of man to keep the law and remain also without sin.* (1835 D&C Lecture 5, p.53) But only God is without sin and Jesus was God in the flesh. Romans 3:19-24 clearly states, *...for all [men] have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...* Galatians 2:15-16 also says, *...by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.*

### A Gospel of Salvation

If the Gospel is the power of God for salvation as Apostle Paul claims in Romans, then the Gospel we believe is literally a matter of eternal life or death. Would you choose the “fulness of the gospel” preached by Joseph Smith, Jr., or rely on the Gospel of grace preached by Jesus and his Apostles?

**God does NOT change.  
Read Galatians 1:6-9.**

*This tract was produced by  
by Frank O. Grey  
and Paul T. Trask  
© 2008 Refiner’s Fire Ministries*



Bringing followers of Joseph Smith  
into the Light of Christ

*For other tracts and  
publications, go to:*

**www.help4rlds.com**