

**Jude v3** "Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and *urge you to contend for the faith* that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. "**Ungodly people**, whose words, and deeds deny the truth of the faith, have infiltrated the church. **Believers** must contend (*exert intense effort*) for the **purity of the gospel** by preserving it as it was **once for all entrusted** to the apostles (Phil 1:27)

**1 Peter 3:15** "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." What you believe! Christians cannot confidently **be prepared to give an answer** unless they have immersed themselves in God's Word. *All knowing and practicing their faith enough to argue against contrary worldviews.* **1Corinthians 15:3-4** "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, v4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," *The truth of the gospel: Must include four elements:*

**1)Christ's death, burial, and resurrection 2) testimony of witnesses to the Resurrection. Not works**  
**John 4** "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

**Galatians 1:4** "who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father."

The present evil age in which the Galatians lived is the same as ours—a fallen world under the rule of Satan.(4:1-11;Colossians1:13-16;**Romans 1:25-32** Describes the "evil age under Satan"

"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.**V26** Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. **v27**In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. **V28** Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. **V29** They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, **v30** slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; **v31**they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.**V32** Although they know God's righteousness decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

**Galatians 5:4** "You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ' you have fallen away from grace."

**Fallen away from grace** means "fallen out of the sphere of grace" or "to have lost one's grasp of grace." When we fall from grace, we do not lose our salvation; however, we do close the door to Christian growth and maturity and God's blessing, becoming **alienated from Him**.

**Works** are the result of true faith, not the basis for true faith, which is God's grace.

**Galatians 1:6-7** “I am **amazed** that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are **turning** to a different gospel—v7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to **pervert** the gospel of Christ.”

**Amazed by new Galatian believers' turn from the gospel of Christ: The Problem with that is:**

1) In the churches Paul planted in Galatia, new believers were listening to false teachers. It also happens in the book of Jude—written by Jesus’ half-brother. There were false teachers and false gospels as well. Jude urges \_\_\_\_\_ to “**contend for the faith**” (v8).

To **contend** means to “agonize greatly” or “struggle” as in an agonizing athletic contest, and that is *why many do not contend for the faith*. But \_\_\_\_\_ Christians are called to be ready to give “*a reason for the hope that is in (us)*. “(1 Peter 3:15) It is a relevant subject reminding us of the importance of knowing what we \_\_\_\_\_! **Disbelieving the gospel is no small error**. Maybe your challenger is a person you love, a rebellious teen turning away from the church saying “It’s all a myth,” or buying into the new atheist movement, losing all respect for your beliefs. Perhaps they are being challenged by a college professor, or unbelieving group of friends, a boyfriend/girlfriend of a world religion, causing doubt. This helps us better prepare our family and others to address arguments and strongholds worldviews contrary to Christian views.

2) **Turning from the gospel!** Turning means to “*transfer one’s allegiance*,” fight for the other side. Paul was *amazed the Galatians, who heard the truth of the \_\_\_\_\_ and put on the robes of righteousness*, were returning to the trash can to *retrieve their old clothes of \_\_\_\_\_ based religion*. Paul saw the Galatians as his spiritual children, desiring to see them \_\_\_\_\_ into *Christlikeness*, knowing this was a significant event. When someone is turning \_\_\_\_\_ from Christ it should grieve us. When someone is walking\_\_\_\_ the gospel of grace, it should thrill us. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

3) **What we learn when we turn away from the gospel.** 1) **You turn from God Himself** v6 You are turning from Christ “who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age.” v4 Not merely a set of principles. “I believe in Jesus, but I have no interest in the \_\_\_\_.” This is holding onto God but abandon the \_\_\_\_\_. They want to know God but don’t accept the idea *He punished His Son in our \_\_\_\_\_*. If you miss what Christ did and why, you \_\_\_\_\_ *everything*!

2) **You turn from the grace of Christ** v6 “The grace of Christ” is the same as the gospel. **Read 5:4.** To be “called” into grace by God is a sovereign action and a believers’ experience, sensing God’s power in dealing with \_\_\_\_\_. Our salvation is not Jesus+ or - anything! When you take Christ out, you lose \_\_\_\_\_. When you add “human achievements” like other world religions, you have a \_\_\_\_\_ based salvation. It’s like stepping into a performance religion treadmill. Do you recall God’s powerful calling to you to receive Christ as your Savior?

\_\_\_\_\_ *are the result of true faith, \_\_\_\_\_ the basis for true faith, which is God’s grace.*

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Paul was astonished the Galatians were so quickly deserting God. No prayer of thanksgiving here! His concern is accusing the believers of being “turncoats” to the gospel. A gospel that mixes God’s grace and human efforts is a mongrel gospel. False gospels blinding new believers to the truth.

**Galatians 2:8-10** “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—v9 not by works, so that no one can boast. V10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. The truth of salvation is, it is a gift of God that comes by grace...through faith alone. Christians are saved for good works, not by their works. These good works are the natural outgrowth of a *relationship with Him*, and they are *empowered through the Holy Spirit*. We are His masterpiece. We cannot achieve this on our own. This disregards righteousness from God and establishes his or her own righteousness by works.

**Galatians 1:8-9** “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! V9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!”

When false messengers tamper with the eternal destiny of a soul by preaching a false gospel, they fall under God’s judgement. **1Corinthians 16:22** “If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord!” There is no place for insincere faith, and not proclaiming the love of Lord. **Philippians 1:12-18** “Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. v13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. V14 And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. V15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. V16 The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. v17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. V18 But what does it matter: The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.” False gospels always glorify man because they boast in human achievements. The true gospel boost in the Lord.

**Matthew 18:6** “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.” We must agree on the essentials of the gospel and preach, teach that only.

**Galatians 1:10** “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?” Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Paul’s concern was for the glory of Christ, for us to aspire to be faithful and recognize the gift of grace.

3) You have no where else to go v6-7 To pervert the truth is to turn it from one direction to another; or turn it into something else altogether. False teachers may say "We believe in Jesus, too", "All religions are equally valid, there is no one truth!" You may choose any of \_\_\_\_\_ antiperspirants to keep you fresh, but that is not the case when it comes to securing eternal life. Only one path will do: Jesus. He has no equal. He is not one of many religious leaders. He is the one and only Mesiah.

4) How do we detect false teacher? 1) They create confusion and division. V7 "...evidently some people are throwing you into confusion..." Trying to reconcile Paul's teaching with false doctrines. Satan operated through these \_\_\_\_\_ doctrines, twisting, confusing and changing the gospel through rule-keeping and philosophies to put people in mental shackles that blind them to \_\_\_\_\_. Anyone promoting other than the gospel is a false teacher.

2) False teachers reverse the gospel. Ephesians 2:8-10 Reverse means to set behind what is in front, and putting what is in front, behind. We are (1) saved by grace \_\_\_\_\_, (2) for good works. We do not receive grace AFTER we have worked for salvation. **The gospel has an order.** People who follow other religions may be moral, kind, have zeal, obey the law. This may keep them out of jail, but not out of hell. If morality, kindness, zeal, could save you, then Jesus didn't need to \_\_\_\_\_. A works-based system is *hopeless* because we are not to be merely moral sincere, zealous, good, etc. we must be *perfectly righteous*. We \_\_\_\_\_ achieve this on our own. This path disregards righteousness from God and attempts to establish his or her \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness by works. They are Christ-less, denying the work on the cross is sufficient, and they are man-centered, glorifying human works, not the grace of God.

5) Universal Warning: 1:8-9 Paul calls for a curse on anyone who proclaims a counterfeit gospel be they an \_\_\_\_\_, human or even himself. Under God's curse means "set aside for God's destruction."

6) Christ's glory is at stake. Q: Are church leaders preaching the gospel? Philippians 1:12-18 False gospels always glorify \_\_\_\_\_ because they boast in human achievements. The true gospel boosts in the \_\_\_\_\_. We would need to be good enough, do enough, to merit eternal life. That is not the case

7) People's souls are at stake. Matthew 18:6 No small issue to cause another to disbelieve the truth.

8) Health of the church is at stake. We may disagree on some things, but must agree on the essentials of the \_\_\_\_\_. Our author said, "I will die for the gospel, but not for a style of music, or I think one spiritual gift is better than another, style of preaching, details about end times." Others?

9) Apostle's Ambition 1:10 Paul insists his desire is to please God only. Paul's goal was not to receive glory from people. His concern was for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, the health of the church, and the destiny of the souls of men and women. Followers of Jesus experience opposition, if your goal is to be a people-pleaser you likely will not be a faithful and fruitful Christian. We are to aspire to be \_\_\_\_\_. Are you a servant of Christ? Adore Him in your heart. Recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ He has given you. Contend for this message with courage and with the power of the Spirit in you.