

# DESERTING GOD IS ALWAYS A BAD IDEA



- Every false gospel is from the mind of Satan via one of his children.
- When a person turns to any gospel other than the gospel that Paul preached, the turning away is not merely turning from one abstract belief or plausible religious theory or way of salvation to another but is in reality turning away from God.
- And this feeds Satan's thirst for blasphemy. He desires not just that humans die in their sins and go into everlasting torment and judgment but that in turning away from God they demonstrate contempt for God and the name of God.
- Satan seethes with rage that he was not allowed to be god. In the insanity of his deep, dark mind and unholy spirit, he pours his energy into roaming the earth and duping as many of God's human creation as possible to deny their Creator.
- When humans add even a single work to the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, then Satan has his occasion to gloat as the lowly humans have made a statement about the gospel that God offers ... that what Jesus did was not enough ... that the gospel of God is not sufficient to save.



TURNING TO ANOTHER GOSPEL IS ALWAYS THE DEVIL'S IDEA

## 1. Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, 1:1-5.

- (Galatians 1:1–5 ESV) Paul, an apostle— **not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead**— 2 and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 **who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.**
- A. Paul wrote with the authority given to him through Jesus Christ and God our Father.
- B. Paul was called to preach the gospel that was given to him by Jesus Christ.
- (Galatians 1:11–16 ESV) For I would have you know, brothers, that **the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.** 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but **I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.** 13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. 15 **But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,** 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, **in order that I might preach him** among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone.
  - *Paul recounts this experience in detail in Acts 26:14–18.*
  - (1 Corinthians 1:17 ESV) **For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel,** and not with words of eloquent wisdom, **lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.**
  - (1 Corinthians 1:23 ESV) **But we preach Christ crucified,** a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles.
- C. Only one gospel can rescue us from this present evil age—the gospel that Paul preached, 1:4-5.

For **[evil age]** Paul uses the term **aeon**. It denotes the world in motion in contrast with cosmos which, though used in a variety of senses, indicates the world at rest. The aeon, then, refers to the world viewed from the

standpoint of time and change. ... It is the world or transitory era which is hastening to its close and in which, in spite of all its pleasures and treasures, there is nothing of abiding value. Over against this present world or age is the coming world, the glory-age, that will be ushered in at the consummation of all things. [Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). *Exposition of Galatians* (Vol. 8, pp. 34–35). Baker Book House.]

- i. Christ giving himself for our sins is our only hope of rescue.
- (Acts 10:43 ESV) To him all the prophets bear witness **that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**
  - (Ephesians 1:7 ESV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.
  - (Colossians 1:13–14 ESV) **He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**
- ii. We are to live godly lives as those who have been delivered from this present evil age and live in view of the aeon to come.
- (Titus 2:12–13 ESV) Training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, **and godly lives in the present age [aeon], 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**
- iii. Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the coming judgment of this evil age.
- (Matthew 13:38–43 ESV) The field is the world [kosmos], and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. **The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil.** The harvest is **the end of the age [aeon],** and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be **at the end of the age [aeon].** 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the

fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 **Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.**

- (Matthew 13:49–50 ESV) So it will be **at the end of the age [aeon]. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace.** In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- iv. Our rescue is guaranteed forever because our rescuer sits at the right hand of the Father.
  - See *Ephesians 1:20–21*.
- v. Those of this present evil age who do not believe are oblivious to the coming judgment of God.
  - (Matthew 13:22 ESV) As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world [aeon] and the deceitfulness of riches **choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.**
  - (1 Corinthians 1:20–21 ESV) Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater **of this age [aeon]**? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world [*kosmos-world system*]? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world [*kosmos-world system*] did not know God through wisdom, **it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.**
  - (1 Corinthians 2:6–8 ESV) Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age [aeon] or of the rulers **of this age [aeon]**, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers **of this age [aeon]** understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- vi. The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to the gospel.
  - (2 Corinthians 4:3–4 ESV) **And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

## 2. Paul expresses his astonishment at how quickly the Galatians were deserting Christ, 1:6-9.

- (Galatians 1:6–9 ESV) **I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—** 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should **preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.** 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: **If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.**

A. Note Paul's emphasis ... Those who turn to a different gospel desert God—"him who called you in the grace of Christ."

Of course there is not another gospel—only a false gospel brought about by people who fall prey to the devil's schemes and carry out the will of the devil in the name of God and distort the gospel of Christ usually, as is the case here, through religious tradition and intimidation.

- B. Anyone who preaches a gospel contrary to the one Paul and the apostles preached is to be accursed—*anathema*, the divine wrath of God.
- C. The gospel Paul preached is the only gospel and is most succinctly described in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
  - (1 Corinthians 15:1–4 ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, **of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,** 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.**
  - This is the gospel Paul preached.
  - This is the gospel they received and in which they stand.
  - This is the gospel by which they are being saved unless they did not truly believe.
  - This is the gospel Paul received from Christ.
  - Holding fast to the word Paul preached to them meant neither adding nor taking away anything.
  - The Gospel – Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

### 3. Paul would not be intimidated and leaves no doubt as to whose approval he seeks, 1:10.

- (Galatians 1:10 ESV) For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.
- A. Paul refused to be intimidated as Cephas and some of the rest had been.
- (Galatians 2:11–13 ESV) But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. 13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.
- B. Paul responded to the circumcision party in no uncertain terms as to whose approval he was seeking.
- C. Paul's gospel was Christ alone by faith alone by grace alone and no works.
- (Ephesians 2:8–9 ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- D. Any work added corrupts the gospel and condemns the preacher.
- If even one work is added, whether circumcision or water baptism or church attendance or tithing, then the person is obligated to keep the whole law.
- (Galatians 5:2–3 ESV) Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.
- E. Any outward show of works is only for the benefit of unscrupulous false teachers.
- (Galatians 6:12 ESV) It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

## ADDENDUM: FOUR EXAMPLES OF FALSE GOSPELS

### 1) The Mormon Gospel - President Dallin H. Oaks

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics/gospel?lang=eng>

The gospel is our Heavenly Father's plan of happiness. The central doctrine of the gospel is the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The Prophet Joseph Smith said, "The first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are:

1. first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;
2. second, Repentance;
3. third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins;
4. fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Articles of Faith 1:4).

In its fulness, the gospel includes all the doctrines, principles, laws, ordinances, and covenants necessary for us to be exalted in the celestial kingdom. The Savior has promised that if we endure to the end, faithfully living the gospel, He will hold us guiltless before the Father at the Final Judgment (see 3 Nephi 27:16).

The fulness of the gospel has been preached in all ages when God's children have been prepared to receive it. In the latter days, or the dispensation of the fulness of times, the gospel has been restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

### 2) The Roman Catholic Gospel

What does the Catholic Church teach about how a person gets to Heaven?

<https://aleteia.org/2013/01/17/what-must-i-do-to-be-saved/>

Faith alone will not save a person. To attain salvation, a person must, in response to God's grace, fulfill the following:

1. believe in God,
2. put his faith in Jesus,
3. repent of his sins,
4. be baptized,
5. remain within the fold of the Church,

6. hope in God,
7. persevere in charity,
8. and finally, die in a state of grace.

#### What Precisely is the Gospel? - Word on Fire

<https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/barron/what-precisely-is-the-gospel/>

Some years ago, I was involved in a Catholic-Evangelical dialogue. One of our Protestant brothers challenged the Catholics in the group to articulate clearly what the Gospel is. I knew what he was getting at: many Evangelicals pride themselves on the fact that they can succinctly sum up the Good News in a way that people find compelling and helpful, whereas many Catholics, it seems, get tongue-tied.

For most Evangelicals, the Gospel is some version of justification by grace through faith. We are sinners, hopelessly incapable of saving ourselves through any accomplishment of our own. But Jesus has died for our sins, and if we place our trust in him we will find eternal salvation.

### 3) Christian Restoration Movement Gospel

<https://thecra.org/home/what-is-the-restoration-movement>

#### What You Must Do to Become a Christian

1. You must believe.
2. You must repent of sin.
3. You must confess Christ.
4. You must be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins.

Baptism is not just a religious ceremony but is an act of saving faith whereby the believing repentant, confessing sinner comes into contact with the blood of Christ.

#### What you must do to remain a Christian

1. Prayer: Matthew 26:41, Luke 18:1.
2. Bible Study: John 5:39, 20:30-31, Acts 17:11, Romans 15:4, 2 Timothy 2:15.
3. Worship: Matthew 18:20, 26:26-29, Acts 20:6,7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Hebrews 10:25-27.

4. Faithfulness: Matthew 28:10-20, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Revelation 2:10.

#### 4) A missionary answers the questions ...

##### WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? HOW IS A PERSON SAVED?

1. So in short the gospel is Jesus and him crucified and resurrected. We are covered by his blood. His grace and mercy are sufficient for all of us.
2. To be saved we must believe Jesus is the Son of God and the sacrifice for our sins.
3. We must repent and turn away from our sins and want to change. We must confess that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God.
4. We must be obedient in baptism, dying to our old self and raising to walk in newness of life.
5. Then we must remain faithful to God as we teach others and share the gospel, the good news of Jesus that has saved us from our sins.

##### FIVE SCRIPTURES LISTED IN SUPPORT—FOUR REFER TO BAPTISM.

- (Acts 2:37-38) When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- (Acts 2:41) Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.
- (Romans 10:9) If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
- (Mark 16:15-16) He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”
- (Matthew 28:18-20) Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of ...

**CONCLUSION: WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD FALSE GOSPELS AND THOSE WHO PROMOTE THEM?**

**I. Those who know the Lord love the Lord our God above everything else.**

- (Deuteronomy 6:4–5 ESV) Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**
- See also *Matthew 22:37, Luke 10:27.*

**II. Those who know the Lord will remain faithful to him because Christ lives in us.**

- (Galatians 2:20 ESV) I have been crucified with Christ. **It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,** who loved me and gave himself for me.

**III. Those who love the Lord should neither help the wicked nor love those who hate the LORD.**

*[We act in love toward them in personal matters but remain separate and opposed to them in spiritual matters.]*

- (2 Chronicles 19:2 ESV) But Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, **“Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD?** Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD.”
- (Psalm 5:4–6 ESV) **For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;** evil may not dwell with you. 5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; **you hate all evildoers.** 6 **You destroy those who speak lies;** the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty **and deceitful man.**

**IV. Those who love the Lord should hate evil and every false way.**

- (Psalm 97:10a ESV) **O you who love the LORD, hate evil!**
- (Psalm 101:3 ESV) I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. **I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.**
- (Psalm 119:104 ESV) Through your precepts I get understanding; **therefore I hate every false way.**
- (Psalm 119:113–114 ESV) **I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.** 114 **You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.**

- (Psalm 119:128 ESV) **Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way.**

- (Psalm 119:163 ESV) **I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.**

- (Amos 5:15a ESV) **Hate evil, and love good.**

**V. Those who love the Lord must warn the wicked away from the wide road of destruction.**

- (Matthew 7:13 ESV) Enter by the narrow gate. **For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.**
- (Matthew 7:21–23 ESV) **Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’** will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 **On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’** 23 **And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’**

**VI. Those who love the Lord should work to undermine the claim of those who deceitfully claim commonality of belief and service with us.**

- (2 Corinthians 11:12–15 ESV) And what I am doing I will continue to do, **in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do.** 13 **For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.** 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. (

**VII. Those who love the Lord must hold firm to the gospel.**

- Philippians 1:27 ESV) **Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,** so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are **standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.**