

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Galatians 1:7**.
- B. Paul was amazed at how fast the brethren in the churches of Galatia were turning away from the true gospel message.
- C. Undoubtedly, there were those who had perverted the gospel and caused them to do things foreign to true doctrine.
- D. Those who would do such things are evaders of truth.

I. WAYS TO DISTORT OR EVADE THE TRUTH.

- A. Being a doubter can be harmful:
 - 1. This is not to say that honest doubt is wrong.
 - 2. One kind of doubt is that of not having a correct translation.
 - 3. Or even deeper, is the Bible really God's word?
(we can depend on the translation, and that it is God's word)
- B. Guessing instead of studying:
 - 1. Have you met people who always have an opinion on everything?
 - 2. Some guess at what the Bible means instead of studying out the truth of the passages.
 - 3. Also some will formulate a doctrine and then go to the Bible to prove it.
- C. Some play "dodge ball" with the truth:
 - 1. Those who do this argue that some teachings of the Bible do not apply to us today.
 - 2. Although certain commands were written to certain people more often than not the commands of the Bible will apply to everyone.
 - 3. When we pick and choose what we want to believe (have applied to us) we are evading the truth.
- D. The Professor/Practitioner complex:
 - 1. The professor is one who knows a great deal about the Bible but never practices it in his life.
 - 2. The practitioner is one who wants to do things for Christ but does not have the knowledge to know right from wrong (Rom. 10:2).
- E. The idealist wants to stay in his sins:
 - 1. The idealist says that the Bible is full of perfect teachings which no one can keep, so we should not be so concerned about following it.
 - 2. One must realize that Jesus laid down principles as well as ideals. The Bible can be obeyed (2Tim. 3:17).
- F. Conclusion:
This list is not exhaustive, but long enough to illustrate the point that evaders of truth will come up with ways to pervert the gospel as to not have to obey it.

II. RESULTS OF DISTORTING OR EVADE THE TRUTH.

- A. The condemnation of Gal. 1:8,9 is very strong. 'Anathema' means to yield to the wrath of God or to receive the curse of God.
- B. This is a 'hybrid gospel' (mixed with something else) and according to Paul is no gospel at all.
- C. The remainder of the book of Galatians discusses some of the consequences of distorting the true gospel message:
 - 1. Back in the bondage of sin, liberty is gone (Gal. 2:4; Jas. 1:25).
 - 2. No justification outside of pure faith (Gal. 2:16,20).
 - 3. The gospel is superfluous and of no account (Gal. 2:21).
 - 4. It is the same as living under the Law, or living under a curse (Gal. 3:10).
 - 5. Jesus is of no benefit (Gal. 5:1,2).

6. We have fallen from grace (Gal. 5:4).
- D. Perverting, evading, and distorting the gospel message is no little matter. It must be left intact to do mankind any good.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Our aim is not to exceed what is written, but to speak as the oracles of God (1Cor. 4:6; 1Pet. 4:11).
- B. The invitation is to obey the true gospel initially and continually.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.