# **ACTS 1:1-11**

## We Have A Strong Warning Not to Pervert Gospel



The truth of this subject is so important that God inspired the apostle Paul to warn the Galatians then—and us today:

ACTS 1:1-11

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### Galatians 1:6-9

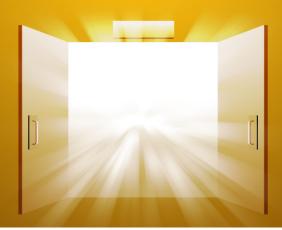
<sup>6</sup>I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; <sup>7</sup> which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.



<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

This is a very strong statement! In the next chapter (Gal.2:5), Paul went on to stress the hope "that the *truth* of the gospel might continue with you." So there is the *true* gospel, with all others false.



### Galatians 2:1-5

2 Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. <sup>2</sup> It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.



<sup>3</sup> But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. <sup>4</sup> But *it was* because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. <sup>5</sup> But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.



Plainly, Paul never taught a different or additional gospel, as some allege. Ironically, God used him to be the one to warn against ever allowing such false teaching. He even pronounces a curse (1:8) on any man, angel or even apostle —"But though we [apostles]...preach any other gospel"—who chooses to violate this command. What a powerful scripture!



Paul further explained that the apostles were entrusted by God to preserve the true gospel. Notice I Thessalonians 2:4: "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which tries our hearts." This is a responsibility not to be taken lightly.

True ministers always teach what God commands, not what "pleases men" or Bible "scholars." So any idea that Paul taught another gospel (usually thought to be about Christ) is silly. He would have been literally pronouncing a curse on himself!

All who preach a false gospel automatically pronounce a curse on themselves. Why do men not fear to do this? Why are so many willing to teach any one of a variety of false gospels? The churches of mainstream Christianity cannot agree on what the gospel is. Why?



Since Christ said the gospel was about the kingdom of God, and men do not know what the kingdom of God is, they have concluded that the kingdom may be a particular church denomination or Christianity collectively. Others reduce it to a "warm feeling" in the "hearts of people." Still others believe that it is the "millennium" or even the "British Empire." Some have even concluded that the gospel of the kingdom of God is not for mankind today!



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The masses are deceived (Rev. 12:9) by the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4), who uses his ministers as instruments to spread the most popular false gospel, about the Person of Christ, instead of the message of the kingdom of God, which Christ brought.



### 2 Corinthians 11:10-15

10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. 11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! 12 But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.



13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.



This is a blunt, shocking scripture. Yet it is true that Satan has ministers who appear to be the ministers of God.

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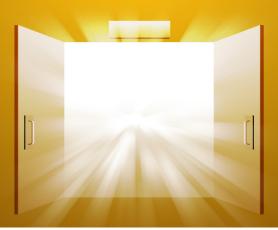
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The following verses continue Paul's description of the work of false ministers.



### 2 Corinthians 11:1-4

11 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. <sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.



<sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup> For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.



If Christ IS the gospel, then why are "another *Jesus*" and "another *gospel*" listed as *two* separate problems?

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People need to wake up to the deception
—the mass delusion—of a supposed
Christianity that denies virtually all the
plain truths of the Bible! God's plan for
mankind is staggering—incomparable to
anything human beings have devised to
replace what He says. The world ignores
plain, clear, unmistakable scriptures
found throughout the Bible about the
kingdom of God.



## Christ's Message—An Advance Announcement



Like a newscaster far ahead of his time, Christ came to make an announcement about a complete change in the way the world would one day be governed. With this change would come unprecedented world peace, happiness, harmony, universal health and prosperity.



Everywhere He went, Christ spoke about the kingdom of God. It was the subject of most of His parables. When He commissioned His twelve apostles and sent them to preach, the instruction was to preach about the kingdom of God (Luke 9:1-2).

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### What Did Jesus Preach About?



My purpose in this Teaching is to describe in uncomplicated language what I think the Bible tells us about God — about what the Creator of the universe had in mind when He created the heavens and the earth. About God's grand design. What is His great purpose for you and for the world?



I want to explain to you what He expects of you and me, in whatever condition we find ourselves. What God's goal is for you, as you battle your way through life's difficulties. And I want to show you what God has in store for those who really love Him and His Son, Jesus.



People pursue goals in different fields with single-mindedness.

They often give themselves wholeheartedly to the pursuit of goals

which have no ultimate value. Is it too much to ask that we

dedicate ourselves to gaining immortality, the only goal which really lasts, and lasts forever?



What goal did Jesus present to his audiences? What was the heart and core of all of his preaching and teaching?

Just open your Bible to Luke, chapter 4 and verse 43 and you will find Jesus telling us there what he was "all about." You will find him in that verse giving his mission statement, the purpose for all his preaching and teaching, the reason for his whole activity in the service of God, his Father. You will find here Jesus' precious master-word, the genius of all he stood for and loved.



### Luke 4:43

43 But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."

