

In effect, Paul is saying that the teaching by which the Galatians were being seduced was no gospel at all because there can be only one true Gospel.

C. H. Spurgeon, the prince of preachers, when commenting on the liberalism of his day said: "A new religion has been initiated which is no more Christianity than chalk is cheese; and this religion, being destitute of moral honesty, palms itself off as the old faith with slight improvements, and on this plea usurps pulpits which were erected for Gospel preaching. The atonement is scouted, the inspiration of Scripture is derided, the Holy Ghost is degraded into an influence, the punishment of sin is turned into fiction and the resurrection into a myth. And yet these enemies of our faith expect us to call them brethren and maintain a confederacy with them!"

This was written in 1888 in the paper The Sword and the Trowel when liberalism was just beginning to take hold. Today it controls the major Protestant denominations.

B. The Anathema on False Teachers

1. Definitions

- a. Judaizers - a party which existed in the early church. It was made up of Jews who were probably former Pharisees. They taught that Gentiles and Jews must be circumcised and keep certain regulations of the Mosaic Law in order to obtain salvation. See Acts 15:1, Galatians 5:2, and 6:12,13.
- b. Anathema - that which is devoted to God for judgement and destruction. Thus, it is translated "accursed." Paul uses it in I Corinthians 16:22 also.

2. Anathema

- a. This curse was not pronounced because of personal hatred for the false teachers. Paul makes it clear in verse 8 and 9 that it does not matter who the offender is, the offense is still the same. Those that commit it should be cursed. Paul doubtless longed that these false teachers would turn from their wicked ways and come to the truth of the Gospel, but as long as they persisted in devouring his sheep he must consider them accursed of God.
- b. This curse was pronounced because of the magnitude of the offense. These men were seeking to pervert the Gospel of Grace. Jesus said in Matthew 18:6, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

To pervert the truth is to destroy the truth, and to destroy the truth of God's grace is to trample underfoot the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Quoting from Spurgeon again, he said: "Truth first, and friendship and charity afterwards."