

THE GOSPEL NOT AFTER MAN

Galatians 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

The New International Version states the following: “I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the Gospel I preached is not of human origin.” What is the Gospel? The Gospel is the story of God, who was manifested in the flesh, died in his body for the sins of the world, and rose up the third day, conquering sin and death. This God, Jesus, now lives in us as the Holy Spirit and empowers us to live a holy life. Who revealed this Gospel to the world? The answer is Jesus himself. This Gospel was hidden, a mystery, in the beginning. “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 3:9). Even the prophets did not understand what they were saying when they prophesied about the Gospel. “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into” (I Peter 1:12). So the prophets did not understand the Gospel, although they spoke about it, and neither did the apostles understand what Jesus was talking about. They actually refused to believe what he was saying and even rebuked him.

Mat 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Mat 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

It is clear, then, that no one understood the Gospel, and no one was even willing to attempt to understand it. One reason is that Satan was doing everything in his power to keep people ignorant of the Gospel. “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4). It was left to God himself to share the Gospel. He was alone in this endeavor. It is for this reason that the apostle Paul states that our Gospel is not of human origin. There were many messages in the Old Testament that God conveyed to the world and Israel: to Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the prophets. However, when it came to speaking about the Gospel, God came himself to deliver the

message personally. “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1; 2, 3).

Isaiah did not understand what he said in Isaiah 9:6, and neither did Micah understand what he said in Micah 5:2. Yet this message was so important that God could not trust anyone to deliver it; he had to do it himself. For three years, he selected and taught 12 men. He told them that he came to die, although they refused to believe it. He told them beforehand that he would rise up, although they refused to believe it. They soon became witnesses to the Gospel transpire before their eyes. “Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that he should be holden of it” (Acts 2:24). It was clear that the Gospel was not of human origin. Do you know why the Lord appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and later taught him about the Gospel in Arabia? Jesus did not want Paul to be dependent on Peter, James, and John for the Gospel. He wanted Paul to receive independent verification directly from his own mouth because the Gospel is not of human origin. This is so that no one can boast in the sight of God. Humans always want to have a monopoly over power. Some ministers refuse to accept an individual as a Christian unless they witness to them and baptize them in Jesus name. The Lord Jesus did not give this privilege to Peter, James, and John.

Gal 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

Gal 1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.

It is important to understand that none of us have received the Gospel as a birthright. Someone may have witnessed to you, but it was the Spirit of Jesus who illuminated your understanding and did the work of grace and salvation in your soul. God will not allow individuals to claim power over their souls because his children are born of his seed, not human seed. “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (I Peter 1:23). The Gospel of Jesus should be a direct inheritance from our father; no human being should claim to be the source of our salvation. We must own the Gospel as a direct gift from our Father, Jesus. Let us say there are two

brothers or sisters in a household. Imagine if one of the brothers could not talk directly to his father; all communication would go through the other brother. That would be ridiculous! The Gospel, which is of human origin, has no power and will not last. If our children hear the Gospel only from us and have no independent relationship with Jesus, such a Gospel will crash.

***2Timothy 1:12** For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

Saints of God, the time has come of which the apostle Paul warned. “This also means that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous boasters, proud blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1–5). Only those who have received the Gospel, not of human but divine origin, will persevere and overcome these perilous times. Does Jesus speak to you as if he were from your country, your own town, and with your accent? Then you will overcome because you have received the Gospel, which is not of human origin. Though Jesus is heavenly, he is also local. The Ghanaian can say Jesus is a Ghanaian, the Italian the same, and whatever country you may be from.

***John 6:45** It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

In summary, the message in Galatians 1:11 is that the Gospel, which is the story of God coming to Earth, dying for our sins, and rising again, was not made up by people. It’s a message from God himself. Even though prophets and apostles talked about it, they didn't fully understand it until Jesus revealed it. Satan tried to keep people from knowing the Gospel. That’s why God had to personally share it. He taught his disciples and even appeared to Paul so he could understand it directly. This Gospel isn’t something we inherit from other people; it’s a gift from God. In these difficult times, only those who have received this Gospel directly from God will endure. Jesus speaks to each of us in our own way, showing that the Gospel is for everyone, everywhere.