What is the Gospel?

Galatians 1:3-10

Idea: The danger of deifying man

I. Introduction:

The Apostle Paul wrote a circular letter to the churches in Galatia because false teachers were preaching another gospel instead of the Gospel of Christ crucified. Paul accused these false teachers of perverting the Gospel of Christ and seeking to please men instead of pleasing God. Paul gave a strong warning: “If any man preaches another gospel, let him be accursed.” Unfortunately, the Gospel of Christ is being perverted today by those who substitute The American Gospel for the true Gospel.

II. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is God’s plan for forgiving man’s sins and reconciling him to

 Himself through the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (I Cor. 15:1-5)

II. What is The American Gospel?

1. It is the **deification** of man—a form of **idolatry** that relegates Christ to the position of man’s **servant**. God becomes our servant to please us, bless us, and fulfill our desires.
2. In Galatians, Paul makes two statements that call out those who deify man:
3. Are we trying to win the approval of men or God?
4. If we are trying to please men, we are not the servants of Christ.
5. **Preachers** of The American Gospel preach some truth mixed with **catch phrases** designed to attract people into their churches or to financially support their ministries.
6. Some of these catch phrases are:

 1. God wants to boost your ego and make you successful and happy.

 2. God created you to give you the desires of your heart.

 3. God created you in His image, and your words have power. Your words can

 call things into being, so use them wisely.

 4. Your destiny is calling you to live large.

 5. Christ suffered for you on the cross, therefore, there’s no need for you to suffer.

 6. No one wants to be poor, be sick, suffer, or die.

 7. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

 8. Bow your head, close your eyes, and repeat after me.

 9. Accept Christ as Savior only good things will happen to you.

1. The American Gospel breeds **Christian consumerism**.
2. It says the church and Christ exist for the members rather than for the mission.
3. Neil Cole says the following in his book, THE ORGANIC CHURCH: We woo people to come and to keep coming. Then we end up with consumers shopping for the best services, and we cater to them by competing with other churches for the best show.
4. The American Gospel of **health and wealth** says we can do anything we set our minds to do. There’s no limit to what we can accomplish with our intellect, faith, and determination through our skills and hard work. We call on the grace of God to impower us to accomplish the desires of our heart. (Psalm 37:4)
5. The **danger** of The American Gospel is that we subject God to the position of being our servant instead of realizing that without Him, we cannot accomplish anything.
6. Jesus said, “**I am the vine**, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit: **apart from me you can do nothing**,” (John 15:5).