

Gospel Transformation
Galatians 1:11-24

Truth: A righteous person is marked by what he/she is willing to fight over and how he/she engages in the fight.

Main Idea: The defense of God's gospel is worth the fight. When the Gospel is distorted among fellow believers, contending for the Gospel is the right response. If we see the Gospel distorted and do nothing in its defense, we have failed the trust that God gives to us.

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (Jude 1:3-4 [ESV](#))

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed . . . Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” (2 Peter 2:1-3 [ESV](#))

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward . . . If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.” (2 John 1:7-8, 10-11 [ESV](#))

Why is the Gospel worth defending?

1. The Gospel is God's possession.

*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming **the gospel of God**, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”” (Mark 1:14-15 [ESV](#))*

*“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for **the gospel of God**,” (Romans 1:1 [ESV](#))*

*Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached **in my gospel**, for which I am suffering,” (2 Timothy 2:8-9 [ESV](#))*

*... we had boldness in our God to declare to you **the gospel of God**...but just as we have been approved by God **to be entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.” (1 Thessalonians 2:2-4 [ESV](#))*

Truth: The Gospel is God’s possession that He has entrusted to us. As recipients of God’s love, we care about His property.

2. The Gospel is God’s creation.

Truth: The Gospel is the message delivered to us from heaven by His Son Jesus Christ. As such, the message is perfect for all men, for all cultures, for all time. Man cannot improve it and must not change it.

3. The Gospel is God’s instrument of transformation.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16 [ESV](#))

*even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of **the gospel of the glory of Christ**, . . . For what we proclaim is . . . Jesus Christ as Lord, . . . For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ . . . “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 4:2-6, 5:17 [ESV](#))*

Truth: This Gospel is necessary to BEGIN this work of transformation AND this Gospel is necessary to CONTINUE this work of transformation. If we as a church lose the Gospel, we will see no more new works of transformation. If we as a church lose the Gospel, we will not experience the continuing work of transformation.

4. The Gospel is God’s mission.

Truth: One of the great errors of the modern church is the belief that we need different gospels to reach different people.

Summary of the Gospel

1. God created us to know Him and enjoy Him forever.
2. God demands complete obedience to stand in His presence.
3. We have all sinned against God and fall short of His righteous standard.
4. God in love sent His perfect Son to fulfilled the Law’s demands for us and died as a perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.
5. When we place our faith in Jesus, His blood cleanses us of all our sin and His righteousness clothes us so that stand before God as perfect in His sight.