

## Good News and Bad News

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.” – Gal. 1:6-7

We have all heard of good news/bad news jokes. Before we can fully appreciate the good news, we have to know the bad news.

The literal definition of gospel is good news. But part of telling people the good news of the gospel is making them aware of the bad news. That means telling people they are sinners. Of course, people don't like to hear that. I'm a what? I'm not a sinner! I'm a good person!

We have to define what it means to be a sinner, because the Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Yet there are preachers today who don't want to tell people they are sinners. They claim that most people know they're doing wrong. But do they? I think a lot of people believe everything is fine as long as they try to live a good life. We have to break the bad news: “I'm sorry to tell you this, friend, but you're a sinner. You've broken God's commands. You've fallen short of His standards, and there is nothing you can do to make this right. But God loved you so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for you, and if you will turn from that sin and put your faith in Christ, you can be forgiven.”

The bad news helps us fully appreciate the good news. Anything less than this is a false gospel that will give false assurance. That is why Paul wrote, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another.” (Gal. 1:6-7).

We must be careful to preach the real gospel.

Donald