

Not Man's Gospel; Galatians 1:11-12

- Following Rules.
 - I am used to following rules.
 - As a young airman in the USAF, I always followed the rules.
 - I was a cop but spent significant time waxing and buffing the floors of our unit's building.
 - So, I fell into religious legalism (rule-following) easily.
 - One of the most impactful things Jesus said was about the Sabbath.
 - His disciples were plucking heads of grain, and the Pharisees accused them of breaking the Sabbath.
 - Exodus 20:9–11: “Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”
 - In Numbers 15:32-36, The LORD told Moses to stone a man to death for gathering sticks on the Sabbath.
 - Let's read how Jesus replied to the Pharisees.
 - Mark 2:27: “And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”
 - This statement has a vast impact on our lives.
 - The Gospel was made for man, not man for the Gospel.
 - Our Guardian.
 - Galatians 3:24: “So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.”
 - I have often used the term “School bus driver” to explain the Greek word for guardian.
 - The man whose duty it was to conduct a boy or youth to and from school and to superintend his conduct.¹
 - The bus driver is responsible for getting the boys and girls to school and for their safety while in his care.
 - We use the Perfect Law of Liberty as our ‘hit man.’
 - In legalism, the Gospel becomes our ‘hit man’ to keep people in line (the Pharisees).
 - Billy Wilson gave a beautiful illustration.
 - You watch your son hit your daughter on the head.
 - You immediately get up and start walking over, intent on correcting that behavior (which is against your law, “don't hit your sister”).
 - As you are walking over, your son says, “Dad! There was a wasp on her head!”
 - Your whole demeanor changes. Instead of the punishment you would inflict, you are now praising your son.
 - But he broke the law!
 - The law says, “Don't hit your sister.”

¹ [William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 748.]

- He broke the law to keep the law.
 - It is not the ‘what’ (hitting his sister) but the ‘why.’
 - Mark 2:25–26: “And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?”
 - If he had kept the letter of the law (don’t hit your sister), he would have broken the law (protect his sister).
- Adultery.
 - Leviticus 20:10: “If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”
 - We know the events surrounding David and Bathsheba. They both should have been put to death according to the law.
 - John 8:3–5: “The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”
 - What is the Pharisees ‘why?’
 - We know the ‘what.’ Both the woman and the man deserved to die. Where was the man?
 - John 8:6: “This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.”
- Here is my point: this is not man’s Gospel.
- Not Man’s Gospel.
 - We are not free to use the Gospel as we please.
 - 2 Peter 1:19–21: “And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
 - We do not have the right to re-interpret the Scriptures.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16–17: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
 - We must share the Gospel to bring others to Christ.
 - The two eternal purposes of God.
 - God wants all people to be saved.
 - 2 Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”
 - 1 Timothy 2:3–4: “This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
 - God wants the saved to become more like His Son, Jesus.

- 2 Corinthians 3:18: “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”
 - Romans 8:28–29 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
- We cannot use the Gospel to brow-beat others into submission.
 - That is what the Pharisees did.
 - Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for the way they handled the Law.
 - Matthew 23:1–4: “Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.”
 - We can’t pretend there is a wasp on a brother’s or sister’s head and hit them!
- God has given us the Gospel for the benefit of mankind, to protect and care for His creation.
- It is God’s Gospel, not ours.
 - Galatians 1:11–12: “For I would have you know, brothers, that the Gospel that was preached by me is not man’s Gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”
 - We share the Gospel with everyone we can.
 - We strive to become more like His Son, Jesus.