

Title: The Devastating Danger of Desertion (Part 2)

Text: Galatians 1:8-9

Central Idea: When the Alternative to the Authentic is Anathema, Stay with the Authentic

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The Devastating Danger of Desertion (Part 2)

[i] Scripture Reading and Prayer

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel — 7 which is not another — only there are some who are disturbing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As I have said before, I now say again: if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

[ii] By way of illustration I want to take you back to the OT book of Joshua . . . Joshua chapters 6 & 7 . . .

Joshua (YHWH is my salvation) was Moses' assistant & leader of the Israelites during their conquest of Canaan.

Alfred Edersheim has this to say about him: "Born a slave in Egypt, he must have been about forty years old at the time of the Exodus. Attached to the person of Moses, he led Israel in the first decisive battle against Amalek (Ex. 17:9, 13), while Moses in the prayer of faith held up to heaven the God-given 'rod.' It was no doubt on that occasion that his name was changed from Oshea, 'help,' to Jehoshua, 'Jehovah is help'

(Num. 13:16). And this name is the key to his life and work. Alike in bringing the people into Canaan, in his wars, and in the distribution of the land among the tribes, from the miraculous crossing of Jordan and taking of Jericho to his last address, he was the embodiment of his new name, 'Jehovah is help.' To this outward calling his character also corresponded. It is marked by singleness of purpose, directness, and decision ... He sets an object before him, and unswervingly follows it" [Bible Hist., iii. 103]

That was character of Joshua.

So, we're going back in t/time machine to circa 1400 BC (some 3400 yrs ago).

In t/OT book named for him, book of Joshua, chapt. 6 we find t/fledgling nation of Isrl. in their initial conquest of Canaan (their prom. land). They are facing t/ancient city of Jericho, t/most imp. city in t/Jordan valley & t/strongest fortress in all t/land.

At t/end of ch. 5 (v. 13) we read ==>

13 Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" 14 And he said, "No, rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" 15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Most theologians believe that this Person who appeared to Moses in Exo. 3 was a Theophany (preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ). Words he uttered in v. 15 “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy” are used in Exo. 3 where “the angel of the Lord” appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush.

The Angel of the Lord was no mere angelic being – we're told it is none other than the Lord God Himself, who tells Moses in 3:5 . . . “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

Reason why the ground was holy was because God was present there in His glory.

In case of Joshua, the Captain of the Lord's Army, likely Jesus Christ himself, appears as a warrior. It's a sign that God would give the Israelites victory in the conquest of Jericho.

We remember the story as little children . . . (Joshua 6:1 ff.)

1 NOW Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. 3 “And you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. 4 “Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 “And it shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead.”

They did & it did. Walls came down, t/city was conquered & destroyed by fire. Subseq. archaeol. excavations of ancient Jericho have revealed a thick layer of ash dating to this time.

Everything in t/city was put under “the ban” - phrase that means it was to be “devoted to destruction.”

Idea is that the city’s contents were to be given over to the Lord by totally destroying them.

Was a type of “firstfruits” - a concept common to both OT & New.

In this case, t/conquest of Jericho signified that Israel would indeed inherit t/land promised to her.

Everything was to be devoted to destruction – w/the exception of Rahab and those in her household.

Items of metal were set apart – holy to t/Lord – were to be kept aside and put in t/treasury. Everything and everyone else was destroyed and the city burned.

Verse 18 contained a warning ==>

“But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, lest you l/covet them and atake some of the things under the ban, so you would make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it.

What do we read in chapter 7?

1 BUT the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan . . . from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the LORD burned against the sons of Israel.

As a result of Achan's disob., Israel was defeated at Ai, Achan's sin was found out, & he (along w/his household) were put under the ban – they were devoted to destruction.

[iii] The NT Greek equivalent to being devoted to destruction is the word *αναθεμα* – a word we carry into our English vocabulary – a word that is often translated in your Bibles as “accursed”

That word “anathema” is applied to 2 different categories of people. 2 types of people whom God will devote to destruction.

1st are those who don't love t/Lord – 1 Cor 16:22 ==>
If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed (*αναθεμα*).

John teaches us that t/mark of a true Xn is that he/she loves the Lord. We love Him because He first loved us.

2nd category includes those who uphold a false Gospel – that is found in our text – Gal. 1:8-9 were Paul 2x uses t/Gk. noun *αναθεμα*.

God takes perversions of t/Gospel seriously.

[iv] TAP hated nothing more than he hated false, heretical doctrine

His deep concern for t/spiritual well-being of the Corinthian believers should B shared by us as it relates to t/CH in R day “I am afraid,” he writes in (2 Cor. 11:3–4) “lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ” by one who “comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit

which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted”

G. takes perversions of t/Gospel seriously & so did Paul who forgoes words of commendation for t/Galatian Xns so he can get right to t/point in vv. 6-10 where he begins (vv. 6-7) ==>

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel— 7 which is not another — only there are some who are disturbing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

It is upon these Gospel twisting perverts that Paul pronounces a curse in vv. 8 & 9.

When the Only Alternative to the Authentic is an Anathema Stay with the Authentic

[v] There is no other alternative - Can't change the laws of heaven

There is only 1 way to have peace with God and that's thru t/substitutionary sacrifice of JC.

Logic of heaven. Logic of grace. That you can't add anything to it & have it remain grace.

If you attempt to add anything o/s of X to it you ruin the equation. It's ALL t/person & work of JC on our behalf.

It's not grace + sacraments // good works // the Law // CH membership // good intentions.

Grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

[vi] To move away from that message is to flirt with disaster

Something I've seen more times than I'd like to. We live in an age of spiritual defection. Tech. term for that is A.

Apostasy is a defection from t/truth of the faith by someone who once professed that truth. For an indiv. to commit A. is to become Apostate.

Here's t/danger: No one goes from an orthodox profession to heresy and apostasy all at once. It's a process. Sometimes it's months / may be years – but it's not overnight.

Writer to the Hebrews in 3:12: Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

We're talking about “The Devastating Danger of Desertion” (spiritual desertion) which answers the ? ==>

I. Why is Dancing with Desertion so Devastatingly Dangerous?

We have the word “Desertion.”

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel –

Phrase “Devastatingly Dangerous.”

Word “Anathema” (accursed) used 2x – 1 ea. in vv. 8&9.

Word “Dancing.”

Because the Galatian Xns were flirting (dancing) w/a false Gospel.

Word translated “deserting” is a PT verb ind. that when Paul wrote, their defection was only in t/initial stage. IOW – it was in progress.

It's like flipping a switch. t/Switch doesn't “flip” on its own. You have to think about it. You might have to get up and go across t/room. Then you have to reach out & consciously touch t/switch.

T/Galatian Xns may not have flipped t/switch yet. But they were thinking about it. Maybe some of them were on their way across t/room // had reached out for the switch // maybe there were a few that had flipped it – but not the majority.

Spiritual defection works much t/same way ==>

Many years ago I was involved in a situation where a man and his wife were starting to move away from the truth of the gospel. You see those danger signs and you try to address them before it's too late. I remember warning the husband, telling him that I sensed he was moving to a works-oriented salvation and that I was going to do what I could to prevent that. They were drifting; in their case they drifted right into desertion. Their apostasy that once loomed as a possibility became actual.

Relevant for young people raised in a Xn home. I've told my daughters many times that a/key period of life that will test whether you're really in t/faith are roughly t/ages of 12 to 22. You're moving thru puberty & adolescence // growing into adulthood; your subject to t/pressures of social acceptance. That's a time where spiritual slippage becomes most evident. I've seen it. Teens gen. don't keep their disdain for CH secret. They slouch in their seats, play on their phones, ignore what's going on around them. Dangerous.

I. Why is Dancing with Desertion so Devastatingly Dangerous?

4 Ideas (first 2 we covered last time)

A. Because it Abandons the Grace of Jesus Christ (6)

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel—

1. There are some things here that might make us a little uncomfortable in our theology

a. We have the word “called” (καλέω Aorist Active Ptcp)

When Paul uses this word in relation to our salvation he has t/Father in mind. IOW – God t/Father is t/One who calls us to salvation.

(1) We believe in the reformed doctrine of effectual calling

(a) This is irresistible grace

The Westminster Confession of Faith ==>

All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds, spiritually and savingly, to understand the things of God; taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them an heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and by His almighty power determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace. [Article 10 of Chapter 1]

There are a boat load of biblical texts that undergird this truth, including t/words of Jesus in John 6:44 ==>
44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Romans 11:29 – calling of God is irrevocable.

Then why ????

I. Why is Dancing with Desertion so Devastatingly Dangerous?

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T/error of Arminianism would declare that truly converted believers can become apostate. Error of Hyper-Calvinism would declare that t/warnings against apostasy do not apply to genuine believers.

? isn't do they apply, it's how do they apply.

Do they apply in that those who are truly elect can be lost.
No.

That is an objective statement.

They do apply subjectively. That is, if I consider myself to be one of the elect, I must heed t/warning.

Part of t/eschatological tension / already not yet.

I am saved, I am being saved, I will be saved.

If I am truly justified, then I will continue on t/road to final glorification.

Road to heaven is paved with perseverance. Part of my persevering is to be warned of the dangers of desertion.

Jesus subjectively learned obed. even though it was objectively impossible for him to ever be disobedient. Heb. 5:8.

The warnings are real. When applied by t/Spirit to a regenerate heart they are 1 means of grace by which t/believer perseveres.

They may also be a means that t/Spirit uses to bring a false professor to genuine faith.

This might be the person who was raised in a Xn home, who knows all t/right answers, and who later drifts away. God sover. uses t/correctives in His Word to enlighten that person, showing him that he was never really in t/faith to begin with.

These warnings are also there to demonstrate t/division that exists between those who are truly born again & those who are not.

"It is indeed true that the refutation of heretics gives greater prominence to the tenets of Your Church and the principles of sound doctrine. . . so that those who are true metal may be distinguished from the rest." [Augustine, Confessions, VII, 19] Cf. 1 John 2:19.

5:10 I have confidence in you in the Lord, that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

No genuine believer can forfeit his/her salvation. That doesn't mean t/genuine Xn is lazy or unguarded. There is that eschatological tension of election / faith / perseverance / & E.S. / glorification.

We don't rest easy – ever – but esp. for those new to t/faith (as the case here).

I. Why is Dancing with Desertion so Devastatingly Dangerous?

A. Because it Abandons the Grace of Jesus Christ (6a)

B. Because Alternate Gospels (Like Alternate Realities) Don't Exist (6b-7)

1. There's no such thing as a different gospel in the sense of it being a genuine gospel – There isn't a gospel of grace & a gospel of works

Why Paul calls it (v. 6) ==>

6b . . . **a different gospel**— *heteros*

7a **which is not another**— . . . verse 7 *allos*

a. A different gospel is like a different God

There's only 1 authentic Gospel (good news of salv. in X) // God who is Triune.

b. There's authentic and there's counterfeit

In that regard ==>

Philip Graham Ryken, who succeeded James M. Boice as pastor of 10th Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia a number of years ago, and later named president of Wheaton College, has written:

The church's greatest danger is not the anti-gospel outside the church; it is the counterfeit gospel inside the church. The Judaizers did not walk around Pisidian Antioch wearing T-shirts that said, "Hug me, I'm a false apostle:" What made them so dangerous was that they knew how to talk the way Christians talk. They used all the right terminology. They talked about how they "got saved:" They told people to "trust in Christ?" They "presented the gospel?" Only they did not have the gospel after all. We should expect, therefore, that the most serious threat to the one true gospel is something that is also called the gospel. The most dangerous teachers are the ones who preach a different Christ but still call him "Jesus?"

So, for example, a preacher in a well-established church always talks about the gospel, but never gets around to confronting sin. Or a Mormon invites people to belong to the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter-day Saints). Or a Roman Catholic signs a statement that says, "We are justified by faith in Christ," but without ever specifying that justification comes by faith in Christ alone. Or a theologian who calls himself an evangelical teaches that there are many ways to God, and that Jesus will save people through other religions. They all seem like such nice people. They all say that they believe in Jesus. But who is the Jesus they believe in? Is he the Christ who is God as well as man? Is he the Christ whose cross is the only atonement for sin? Is he the Christ who is the Judge as well as the Savior? Is he the Christ whose righteousness alone can make us right with God?

Not everyone who calls himself a Christian serves Christ, and not everything called the gospel is the gospel. It is not mere words that save; it is the realities of the one true gospel that save—Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection for sinners. [Ryken, 21-22]

7b . . . only there are some who are disturbing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

2. This is the 1st time in the letter that Paul refers to the false teachers

Doesn't name them - Refers to them as “some” Like Jude 4: For “certain persons” have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness & deny our only Master & Lord, Jesus Christ.

7b . . . some who are disturbing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

a. They are causing trouble // making a disturbance

(1) Word is ταρασσῶ - Present tense – they are still in Galatia and doing this

Same word used of Herod when he heard about t/birth of Jesus (Matt. 2:3) // of t/disciples when they saw Jesus walking on t/water (14:26) // of Zacharias when he saw t/AOL (Luke 1:12). Was also used by Jesus in His command, “Let not your heart be troubled” (John 14:1).

“The verb itself can mean 'to disturb mentally, with excitement, perplexity, or fear' . . .” [UBS]

(a) Not coincidentally – the same word is used of the Judaizers in Acts 15:24

Rem. – we talked about t/Jerusalem Council of Acts 15. T/same Judaizing false teachers are addressed there. Result was that 1st CH council where justification by grace apart from works was defended.

In a letter sent by that council to t/CH's – t/Apostles & Elders refer to these false teachers as ==>

. . . [Jews] to whom we gave no instruction [who] have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls, ταρασσω

(b) False teaching breeds troubled living – As John Stott observed:

“These two go together. To tamper with the gospel is always to trouble the church. You cannot touch the gospel and leave the church untouched, because the church is created and lives by the gospel. Indeed the church’s greatest troublemakers (now as then) are not those outside who oppose, ridicule and persecute it, but those inside who try to change the gospel.” [Stott]

I. Why is Dancing with Desertion so Devastatingly Dangerous?

A. Because it Abandons the Grace of Jesus Christ (6a)

B. Because Alternate Gospels (Like Alternate Realities) Don't Exist

3d reason why “dancing w/desertion is so devastatingly dangerous” is ==>

C. Because the Authentic Gospel is as Immutable as God's Nature (7a)

1. It's immutable / unchangeable / unalterable

Paul refers to those who (end of v. 7)

7c . . . want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

It's t/Gospel that belongs to X // about X. It's THE Gospel (sing.), not a gospel / or gospels.

1. As I said earlier – this is the logic of heaven – there's only one road that leads to life & the map doesn't change
Gospel can be clarified & better understood, but it cannot ontologically change – anymore than God can. It is

t/immutable logic of heaven that from t/fall of Adam, t/only way that anyone can have peace w/God is by His grace, thru faith, on the basis of X's sacrifice on their behalf.

View that there are many roads that lead to heaven is sentimental hogwash.

As logical as saying that there are different ways to make $2+2=4$.

There's not a gospel of Rome (Roman Catholicism) // Brooklyn (Watchtowerism) // Salt Lake City (Mormonism) // Constantinople (E.O). Whatever.

There's no new kind of Xn and no new Xnty.

It is (Jude 3) ...the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

There is no other way to peace w/God than through t/blood-stained cross of JC our Right.

I. Why is Dancing with Desertion so Devastatingly Dangerous?

A. Because it Abandons the Grace of Jesus Christ (6a)

B. Because Alternate Gospels (Like Alternate Realities) Don't Exist (6b-7a)

C. Because the Authentic Gospel is as Immutable as God's Nature (7b)

Lastly ==>

Dancing with Desertion is so Devastatingly Dangerous ==>

D. Because an Anathema is Promised as an Eternal Consequence (8-9)

(that is, a consequence of desertion)

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed.

Some have called this “one of the harshest statements in the entire New Testament.” [Eg. Bob George, Galatians]

“It is thus the strongest possible form of condemnation.” [Erdman, 35]

1. Brings us back to where we started – under the ban – devoted to destruction – accursed (the meaning of the word *αναθεμα*)

You want to be under t/ban, devoted to destruction, accursed? Dance around w/desertion / walk w/wickedness / flirt w/false teaching.

2. To prove his point Paul imagines the most startling and confusing situation that could ever occur that might lead us to believe in an alternate gospel

a. What if Paul himself came back w/a different message?

He was a genuine apostle // authority // 1 of God's official spokesmen. What if, someday, he changed his mind & started to teach another way to be right w/God?

b. Or what if an angel came from heaven with a different Gospel?

Imagine an angel appears to you in the night saying, "Do not fear! I bring you glad tidings of a new gospel!"

8a But even if we . . .

Plural “we” = Paul & Barnabas, or it may be an “editorial ‘we’” – using a plural for effect.

8b . . . or an angel from heaven . . .

Angels had special significance to t/Jews who believed that t/Law was given through t/mediation of angels.

8a But even if we . . .

Human messengers.

8b . . . or an angel from heaven . . .

An angelic messenger.

8c . . . should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you . . .

What?

8d . . . let him be accursed.

The messenger doesn't validate the message; the message validates the messenger.

It doesn't matter if it's an angel (there are angels of darkness who masquerade as angels of light) // an Apostle (there are false apostles) // a Bible teacher (false teachers) // a scholar (bad scholarship). If it's not the gospel of unadulterated grace, it's not t/G.

One t/other hand, t/messenger may not be t/most educated or eloquent. (Messenger may even be unconverted). But if he is preaching t/true Gospel of grace it remains the true gospel of grace.

The messenger doesn't validate the message; the message validates the messenger.

Martin Luther said, "That which does not teach Christ is not apostolic, even if Peter and Paul be the teachers. On the other hand, that which does teach Christ is apostolic, even if Judas, Annas, Pilate or Herod should propound it."

Luther was using hyperbole to make a point. But t/point remains. It's t/message that is the standard. The gospel is the gospel not because of Paul, or Peter, or t/CH. t/gospel is t/gospel because it is X's gospel!

c. That which is false doesn't advertise itself as such

T/Bible denying CH down t/street doesn't advertise, "Come here & we will lead you to hell" // "we will teach you a perverted gospel."

ECF Irenaeus noted this: "Error, indeed, is never set forth in its naked deformity, lest, being thus exposed, it should at once be detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress so as, by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced (ridiculous as the expression may seem) more true than truth itself."

d. We are so susceptible to externals

We let form take precedence over substance (packaging over principle). It's like being wowed by a big empty box adorned with pretty gift-wrapping and lots of bows and ribbon to the neglect of a small brown box containing a fine pearl.

There's application to the CH here, isn't there? There are myriads of CH's out there that t/masses flock to that are big boxes with lots of bows and ribbon w/nothing inside.

I'd rather be a small brown box stewarding the pearl of great price. That pearl, that message, doesn't change.

Again, quoting Dr. Ryken =>

The good news of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, is the only gospel there is. Anyone who says anything different—Paul doesn't care who—

deserves to go to hell! There is no other gospel, there has never been any other gospel, and there never will be any other gospel. . . .

Because the gospel is God's gospel, there will never be another. To be sure, the gospel has its rivals. There are religions such as Islam that claim to be based on the revelation of angels. There are cults that claim to have a special message about how to be saved from the coming judgment. There are even Bible scholars who take Galatians and say that the Protestant Reformers were wrong: it is not really about justification by faith alone after all. This is the approach taken by advocates of the New Perspective on Paul and the law, in which Galatians is reinterpreted as focusing on Jewish-Gentile relations and not on the more ultimate question as to how sinners can be righteous before God.

To all rivals and pretenders we say w/Paul ==>

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed.

When the Only Alternative to the Authentic is an Anathema Stay with the Authentic!

3. We see that again in verse 9==>

9 As I have said before, I now say again: if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

Harsh? Do we care about t/glory of Christ & t/health of His CH? Do we care about those that are on their way to hell? Do we care about truth?

I. Why is Dancing with Desertion so Devastatingly Dangerous?

A. Because it Abandons the Grace of Jesus Christ (6a)

B. Because Alternate Gospels (Like Alternate Realities) Don't Exist (6b-7a)

C. Because the Authentic Gospel is as Immutable as God's Nature (7b)

D. Because an Anathema is Promised as an Eternal Consequence (8-9)

4. False teaching, demonic doctrine, is often laced with a degree of truth

Just enough to deceive but not enough to save.

T/false teachers in Galatia did not deny that Jesus was Messiah // he was crucified, died & resurr. They didn't claim new revelation or secret knowledge. They no doubt based their arguments on t/O.T. Scriptures.

With Paul, they could recite the Shema of Deut. 6:4.

We would agree w/them about t/holiness of the law & God's faithfulness to his people.

We don't know that they denied an orthodox understanding of X's Person (his humanity and his deity).

There was enough truth there to be devastatingly dangerous.

What was their terminal error? What placed them under a curse, an anathema? They, like to many t/o history—even today—added works to t/finished work of X.

Rem. t/Prot. Ref. turned on that little word “only.”
Rome believed in justification by faith // Scripture // grace //
They believed in JC. But add that word “only”/“alone” —
Scripture alone / faith / grace / X. & religions of works crow.

Ancient words of Polycarp are relevant still: “Wherefore, forsaking the vanity of many, and their false doctrines, let us return to the Word which has been handed down to us from the beginning.”

Goes back to the Gospel. Again, I’ll ask you “What's the gospel?” – εὐαγγέλιον lit. means “good news”

Good news that answers t/? ==>

"How can one who is sinful & destined for God's wrath be forgiven & restored to peace w/God so that he may worship & enjoy Him forever?"

What is t/Gospel? Simply defined by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:1-5.
1 NOW I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1. Person – JC t/2d person of t/Trinity; Took upon Himself humanity.

1 mediator between God and man had to be both. Truly and fully God // Man.

2. Work – Lived a perfectly righteous life, tempted w/o sin. Lamb of God who took upon Himself t/sin of t/world, dying in t/place of all who would believe in Him for eternal life. He paid t/penalty of my sin so that I could have His righteousness credited to my account. Resurrected from t/dead and ascended to heaven and will return again.

3. Application. How? By grace through faith (instrument – t/hand)....

The only way to be forgiven of our sin and depravity is through faith in his sacrificial death. That is, to believe in Him as t/one suffered God's wrath in my place so that I can have His righteousness.

You?