



What is your “one thing”? The headline that defines your life. We can probably name some really bad, truly wrong headlines that seem to define life for many people. “Might makes right,” or “All that matters is who wins.” These are counterfeit gospels. But then there are good things. Maybe great things. Even essential things. But if they take top billing in what defines our identity and purpose in life, they are counterfeit gospels.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Introduction:

“What is a counterfeit? Have you ever seen a counterfeit? Did it fool you? How did you know it was counterfeit?”

THERE IS JUST ONE GOSPEL. Read Galatians 1:6-9; John 1:17.

“**I am astonished.**” Paul thinks someone has cast them under a spell (Gal 3:1). Why is Paul so shocked?

“**Deserting him.**” The phrase means “to transfer your allegiance.” Compare with Exodus 32, where Israel abandons the covenant for an idol—while Moses is still on the mountain! Notice they aren’t deserting “the gospel”, they are deserting God! They are breaking the first commandment. How is deserting the gospel the same as deserting God?

“**In grace.**” How are they deserting grace?

“**A different gospel.**” They left someONE for someTHING. They added elements of Moses’ law to the finished work of Christ (Gal 5:4). What is wrong with this?

“**distort.**” Corrupt or reverse! Nathan said “the greatest trouble for the church comes from insiders distorting the gospel.” Discuss.

FALSE GOSPEL: A GOSPEL WITHOUT JESUS. Name some gospels--“headlines that define life” for people outside of Christ. Why do they not deliver on their promises? Is it possible for a Christian to believe a gospel that isn’t about Jesus?

FALSE GOSPEL: A GOSPEL OF JESUS WITHOUT THE CROSS. Read Phil 2:5-11; Gal 5:19-21. Think of ways some who claim to be Christians follow a savior, but not a lord. The cross means salvation was costly! And Paul believes the cross shapes how we see and how we act (Phil 2:5-11). Thus, warnings (Gal 5&6).

FALSE GOSPEL: A GOSPEL OF JESUS + SOMETHING. Read Eph 2:8-9; Phil 3:1-11. Nathan said “good things that are treated as gospel, which are not gospel, become a false gospel.” Can you think of anything you do that might cause you to boast in your abilities rather than in what Jesus did for you? Is there anything you require of others to be accepted as equal brothers and sisters other than what it takes for Jesus to accept them?