

Analysis of 1 Corinthians 15:1 (Part 2)

II.- Second part of articulation of our analysis

Today we will continue with the analysis of **1Corinthians 15:1** that we started last week. This text was divided into three (3) distinctive parts or articulations. We covered part one (1) where we saw Paul was trying to remind the Corinthians what he already preached to them in **Acts 18:8-11**. Paul insisted that the whole Corinthian Church should gain this knowledge, because what he was talking about was understandable by any listeners, especially Christians. Let us start the second (2) part or articulation of our analysis with the following statement made by Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles: “. . . τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ὃ εὐηγγελισάμην ὑμῖν (*To Euangeulionn ho euangelisamène hymin*) = . . . the gospel which I preached to you. . .”

τὸ εὐαγγέλιον (*To Euangeulionn*) = *the gospel, the good news*

τὸ is the Accusative Neuter Singular of ὁ (*ho*) = *The*. The use of the definite article indicates a particularity, a singularity. Paul used it to show that there is one (1) gospel, not four (4) as people say very often. If Paul were saying “*a gospel*”, that would let an alternative for another or other gospels, but he said “*the gospel*”; that puts aside all idea of talking about another gospel. In the same perspective he said, in his letter to the Galatians Church, in **Galatians 1:6-7**: “I am marveling that you are so quickly **deserting from** the one who called you in grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel; not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.”

Paul used the Greek verb μετατίθεσθε (*metatitheshe*) Present Indicative Middle-Passive, 2nd Person Plural of μετατίθημι (*metatithēmi*) = *to put, to place or to transfer oneself in another place, to move from one place to another, to change one's location, to depart from*.

It is very important to mention that most of the time it is our decision to put or place ourselves in another so call gospel. Sometime, the decision is due to a lack of knowledge. Sometime, it is due to laziness or carelessness attitude. No time to verify what you have heard. Everybody is doing it this way and it works, why do I have to change it. There is only one God. I think I can go anywhere to worship Him.

Question for you: When you are sick, do you go to any clinic? Do you see any doctor for your case? Why not, since inside all of the clinics there are doctors. But, you always chose a clinic because of the kind of doctors it has.

Why when it is about Church some people are so careless? The answer is people value their body more than their soul, which is the contrary of what God wants. God values your soul more than anything else. Your body will not stand on the judgment day, but your soul will do. Therefore, you need to be worried about anything that can lead your soul to the eternal death. And the time to decide is now, not tomorrow.

Paul continued and said: “. . . to another gospel. . .” [“ἕτερον εὐαγγέλιον” (*heteron euaggelion*)]

ἕτερον (*heteron*) Adjective Accusative Singular Neuter of ἕτερος (*heteros*) = *another*. ἕτερος (*heteros*) expresses a qualitative difference and denotes *another of a different sort, another not of the same nature, form, class, kind*. In other words *one that is different from the previous one, the original one*.

It is different from the original one because it is combined with human point of view. It is different from the original one because it is made of human traditions. It is different from the original because some group add what they would like to be in it and other group take off what they do not like in it. It is no longer the original message that was given in the first century. Since the very beginning Paul warned the Christians not to depart from the gospel that was preaching to them by the apostles, because doing so will lead not to salvation.

Paul said: "... not that there is another gospel, but there are some who troubling you..." Here Paul used the word **ταράσσοντες** (*tarassontes*) Present Participle Active Nominative Plural Masculine of **ταράσσω** (*tarassō*) = *to cause acute emotional distress or turbulence - to cause great mental distress distressed - to perplex the mind of one by suggesting scruples or doubts - to disturb someone mind with various emotions*. That was the reason why Paul called them: **disturbance, trouble**. So, each you are taught some thing that is not in the doctrine of Christ, it is called "disturbance, trouble." And it is very important to know that "disturbance, trouble" will drive you away from God. "Disturbance, trouble" will cut your relationship with the Father and the Son, if you already have it. Unfortunately, the great majority has more inclination for "disturbance and trouble" than the sound teaching. But that was already prophesized by the Holy Spirit via Paul, in **1 Timothy 4:1** where we read: "But the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons."

Paul continued and said: "... and wants to distort the gospel of Christ." Here Paul used **μεταστρέψαι** (*metastrepsai*) Verb Aorist Active Infinitive of **μεταστρέφω** (*metastrephō*) which means *to change, to turn into something else - to transform into something of an opposite character, that is to say to pervert*.

That is the reason why Christians should have a clear knowledge, a clear understanding of what is God's teaching in order to differentiate it from human doctrines, which are many and different from one to another.

It is important to remind you that the gospel of Jesus Christ did not come on Earth magically. It was planed by Yahweh Himself century before. Since between the years of 740 and 680 B.C Isaiah, in his book, prophesized its coming and said it will begin at Jerusalem (Isaiah 40:9). Jesus, while He was on Earth said that He will build His Church (Matthew 16:18). This future was not far, because He said in Mark 9:1: "... Truly I say to you, there are some of those standing here that will not taste death until they have seen the kingdom of God come in power." Effectively, this Kingdom, i.e. the Church came with power in Acts chapter on the Pentecost day with the powerful sermon of Peter one of the apostles. Since then only the Jerusalem above (Galatians 4:26) i.e. the Church of Christ, is the only organism capable to preach the gospel, because it is the pillar and the ground of the truth - (Timothy 3:15).

Note: In Galatians 4:26 the Jerusalem above, the spiritual Jerusalem is the true Church of God. Jerusalem was the place where God was worshipped, and hence it became synonymous with the word Church or is used to represent the people of God. The word rendered "above" (*ανω*) means, *properly, up above, that which is above*; and hence *heavenly, celestial*. Here it means, *the heavenly or celestial Jerusalem*. In Revelation 21:2 John said “And I saw **the Holy City, the New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God . . .” In Hebrews 12:22 Paul said: “But, you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, **the heavenly Jerusalem** . . .” Here the expressions “the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” are used to denote the Church of Christ, as being of heavenly origin. (Barnes Notes of the New Testament)

The analysis of 1 Corinthians 15:1 continues and Paul said: τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ὃ εὐηγγελισάμην (*To Euangeulionn ho Euangeulisamenn*) “... the gospel which I preached to you...”

Paul used the verb εὐηγγελισάμην (*euēngelisamēn*) Indicative Aorist Middle 1st Person Singular of εὐαγγελίζω (*euangelidzō*) which means *to proclaim the divine glad-message of salvation to some one i. e. the gospel of Christ*.

Remark.- I would like to let you know that there is a difference between εὐαγγελίζω (*euangelidzō*) and κηρυσσω (*Khèrissō*). Both mean to preach, but εὐαγγελίζω (*euangelidzō*) is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ; while κηρυσσω (*Khèrissō*) is *to preach in general – it is proclaim or communicate a message that is not necessarily the gospel*.

Peter, Paul and all the other apostles preached the gospel and nothing else but the gospel. On the day of the Pentecost, in **Acts 2:23, 24, 32** Peter preached the gospel as characterized by **the death, burial, resurrection and apparitions of Jesus Christ**. In **Acts 10:39-41**, Peter in the house of Cornelius preached again the gospel as characterize by **the death, burial, resurrection and apparitions of Christ**.

Later on, Paul in **Acts 13:28-33** preached the gospel as **the death, burial, resurrection and apparitions of Jesus Christ**. In **1Corinthians 15:1-5**, Paul talked about the gospel as **the death, burial, resurrection and apparitions of Christ**.

Partial Conclusion.- This is the message that you need to hear. This is the message that we need to proclaim to all and this is the message you need to accept to start your journey toward everlasting life. From the day of Pentecost to now, the message has not changed; it remains the same. Nobody has the right to change it. Paul said in **Galatians 1:8** “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.” In **1Corinthians 15:11** he said that: “Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

If today Yahweh gives you the opportunity to hear the gospel, you need to believe it. You need to accept it. The only way you can do so, after being persuaded of the gospel, is when you decide to be baptized in the death, the burial, the resurrection and the apparitions of Christ for the Salvation of your soul. While we are singing the invitation song #255 - *I am resolved*, whoever feels ready to be baptized we invite you to do so with no delay. Today could be your last day to hear the gospel. Do not miss this

opportunity to respond positively to the gospel call. Seize this opportunity as a smart man you are. Seize it as a smart woman you are, because the time is today, not tomorrow. We invite you to come forward while we are signing and a brother will be more than happy to help you on the greatest decision of your lifetime.

May Yahweh bless you!