

## Gospel of Christ or Social Gospel

~1 Corinthians 1:21~

### Introduction:

1. **1 Corinthians 1:21** - Man's wisdom muddles the simplicity of the Gospel and waters it down making it of none effect. (Rangel)
  2. Not everything about the social Gospel/mega churches is wrong, there are somethings they do right and we should take note. (**Luke 16:8**)
  3. **1 Timothy 3:15** - Church is the pillar and support of the truth
- I. First Century Church Growth - Antioch (**Acts 11**)
- A. Strong, generous and evangelistic (**Acts 11**)
    1. Why and how? - "...speaking to Jews and Greeks...preaching the Lord Jesus." (**Acts 11:20**)
    2. Result? - "...large number believed and turned the Lord..." (**Acts 11:21**)
    3. Follow-up - "...sent Barnabas off to Antioch..." to encourage them (**Acts 11:22-23**), "...and considerable numbers were brought to the Lord..." (**Acts 11:24**)
    4. Additional help needed - Barnabas brought Paul to help him(**Acts 11:25-36**)
    5. Time for mission work - Antioch had 5 teachers and could spare Paul and Barnabas to leave and teach elsewhere (**Acts 13:1-4**)
  - B. Antioch had a heart for benevolence: (**Acts 11:27-30**)
  - C. Compare 1st century church mission statement to 21st century mission statement:
    1. **1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew 28:19-20**
    2. Sevier Heights church: "To bring people to Jesus and His church, to teach and to equip them for ministry, resulting in gain for God's kingdom and glory to his name" (Cook).
    3. "To market vehicles developed and manufactured in the U.S. that are world leaders in quality, cost, and customer satisfaction through the integration of people, technology and business systems and to transfer knowledge, technology and experience throughout GM." (Aker)
- II. Cheapening the Gospel (**1 Corinthians 1:23**)
- A. Mega churches and denominations are not the only ones given to gimmicks to draw the crowds.
  - B. Simple message should not be watered down or clouded with gimmicks - **1 Corinthians 1:23**
  - C. *Either we will promote the Gospel of Christ or the social gospel of man.*
- III. Musts for Church growth
- A. Strong Bible teaching - **2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:8; 2 Timothy 3:16**
  - B. Committed Christians - **1 Corinthians 15:58** "...always abounding..."
  - C. Love for souls - **Acts 11:23-24**
  - D. Moral Lives - **Philippians 2:15; Ephesians 6:14; Matthew 5:16**
  - E. Warm and caring environment - **John 13:35; Romans 16:16**
  - F. Worship in spirit and in truth - **John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Psalm 100:2**
  - G. Solid Bible studies - **Acts 8:30-31; 2 Timothy 3:14-15**
  - H. Strong and steady leadership - **Acts 14:23**

### Conclusion:

1. Every Christian should be committed to preaching the Gospel as the Father intended and be faithful to His Son's church.
2. Let us simply preach the Gospel of Christ (**Romans 1:16ff**) for in it is the power to save, transform and open the doors to heaven.