

ITS ORIGIN

During His ministry Jesus, from among His disciples, selected twelve men to be His apostles (Lk. 6:12-16). He chose them *“that they might be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach”* (Mk. 3:14). (Of course Judas Iscariot fell away, and another was chosen to take his place, Acts 1:15-26.) Throughout the rest of His ministry they were intimately associated with Him that He might teach them, influence them, train them. He faithfully delivered to them the words of His Father (Jn. 17:7-8). He taught them all that they were able to receive. He then promised to send another Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to them, with the assurance that He would (1) bring to their remembrance all that Jesus had taught them, and (2) teach them *“all things”* or *“guide”* them *“into all the truth”* (Jn. 14:25-26; 16:12-13). That promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-4, and from that time the apostles preached the gospel of Christ as they were guided by the Holy Spirit. *“Men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Pet. 1:21) fits them as they preached. *“Which now have been announced unto you through them that preached the gospel unto you by the Holy Spirit sent forth from heaven”* (1 Pet. 1:12). The apostle Paul wrote of the gospel which he preached, *“For I make known to you, brethren, as touching the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man. For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ”* (Gal. 1: 11-12). Paul was entrusted with the gospel, *“But even as we have been approved of God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God who proveth our hearts”* (1 Thess. 2:4).

A WARNING

Neither angels nor men are to tamper with the gospel of Christ, adding to it, taking from it, or substituting something else for it. Paul wrote to the Galatian saints: *“I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another gospel: only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema. As we have said before, so say I now again, If any man preacheth unto you any gospel other than that which ye received, let him be anathema”* (Gal. 1:6-9). Compare 2 John 9-11 and Revelation 22:18-19.

WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF MAN:

1. **To hear it (or read it, or learn it) and believe it, Mark 16: 15-16; Romans 1:16-17; Acts 15:7**
2. **To obey its commandments, Romans 6:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Hebrews 5:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:8**
3. **To live by it, Philippians 1:27; Galatians 2:14**
4. **To not be ashamed of it; to rather suffer for it. 2 Timothy 1:8**
5. **To defend it, Philippians 1:16; Galatians 2:5**
6. **To teach it to others, 2 Timothy 2:2**