



**SERIES: We Are Free December 2022-January 2023**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**Scripture: Galatians 1:8-9, 2 John 1:10-11**

**TITLE: Don't Compromise**

Fiddler on the Roof is one of my favorite musicals of all time. The music is great. The story is compelling. The characters are human..., especially Tevye. Tevye wears his heart on his sleeve. And there's one scene that is incredibly hard to see. It's when Tevye rejects Chava. She's decided to leave her family and faith to pursue love and a new life. She says, "Papa! I beg you to accept them!"

Tevye asks, "How can I accept them? Can I deny everything I believe in?" After wrestling with this choice, he turns his back on his daughter and walks forward in his faith. It's gut-wrenching, but we all will come to moments in our lives where we must choose to compromise or commit. And this even applies to the Gospel.

Here's what Paul says about a person who wants you to compromise in Galatians 1:8-9.

*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. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

Paul's language is incredibly powerful. He does not want to make the Galatians think that false teaching is anything but offensive and worthy of condemnation.

He says in hyperbole that even if an angel from heaven were to preach a different gospel, you should reject his message. Now, we know that wouldn't happen because a true angel of heaven is a messenger from God. But his point is relevant. Even if that were to happen, you should not embrace it because you know the true Gospel.

It is a gift that you cannot add works to. So anyone who adds works to the Gospel makes legalism the source of Salvation. For that matter, anyone who would remove anything from the Gospel, let them be cursed. It's the word "anathema." It means "devoted to destruction." Listen to what John wrote in 2 John 1:10-11 about this type of person.

*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*

You've probably heard what you tolerate you promote. The Bible says if you do nothing about evil and sin, you are sinning yourself.

Paul has no tolerance—therefore, God has no tolerance for false teaching and false teachers. Those who deceive the body of Christ away from the true Gospel or from Jesus Christ himself are cursed and destined for destruction.

Satan knows our weaknesses. He knows where our Achilles heel is. For you, it may be your child. What happens when they stray from God's Word. Do you compromise your faith to fit their lifestyle?

It may be your parent or sibling. They don't like Christianity as the Bible describes, so they create a new form of faith that blends a bit of this and that into the teaching of the Bible.

It could be a coworker, a neighbor, or even a pastor. This is why we must go back to the Bible to see what God has said. This is our foundation. This is authoritative. Paul's warning is serious. His advice is swift. The cost seems high, but the payoff is priceless.

How have you compromised in your faith? How have you let someone else persuade your beliefs to drift from God's instruction? We all do it. The key is to catch it and deal with it swiftly. You may be rejected, but Jesus was rejected first.

So stand firm. Stand faithful. And stand on God's Word. When you do, you will win the day!