

Certification of the Gospel

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Introduction

1. Text Galatians 1:11
2. Definition of certification, to attest authoritatively; confirm... to attest as being true or as represented or as meeting a standard... This, a certified document is one that is not pseudo, not spurious; rather, it is genuine, authentic, and truthful.
3. Let prove that the Gospel is certified by Hebrews
4. Christ has been set forth in Hebrews as:
 - a. God's prophet Hebrews 1:2 Spoken unto us by His Son
 - b. God's priest Hebrews 1:3 purged our sins
 - c. God's king Sat down on the right hand 1:3
 - d. Authoritative power Heir of all things 1:2
 - e. Illuminating power brightness of his glory 1:2
 - f. Upholding power upholding all things by the word of his power 1:3
5. Let us not observe three means by which the Gospel has been certified

II Discussion

1. Messianic proclamation which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord Hebrews 2:3
 - a. It was not spoken by angels
 - i. In giving the old law angels had something to do with the giving. 2:2; Galatians 3:19; Acts 7:53
 - b. The new Law was given by Christ himself thus superior. Hebrews 1:1
 - i. Mark 16:19 spoke to them, the apostle were guided by what He said John 14:26
 - ii. He is God's prophet Hebrews 1:2; 2:3
 - iii. He is God's spokesman
 1. The old Testament revolves around three functions:
 - a. The first is primarily the priesthood Genesis – Deuteronomy
 - b. The second to the kings Joshua – Song of Solomon
 - c. The Third to the prophets Isaiah – Malachi
 - d. In Christ all three functions merge
 - e. More about the prophetic function
 2. Christ as a prophet Deuteronomy 18:15, Acts 3:22-23 John 6:14; 7:40 Luke 7:16; 24:19; Matt 21:11
 3. There were several OT prophets but only one Son John 3:16; Matthew 17:5
 4. They were servants He is Lord Jeremiah 26:5 Philippians 2:11
 5. They were temporal He is eternal John 8:35
 6. They were sinners He was perfect and sinless Jeremiah 5:31; 1 Peter 2:23
 7. They pointed to the Son, He pointed to himself Luke 24:25-25, 44

8. Prophets used three mediums, so did our Lord – 1) teaching Matthew 5-7; John 7:46; prediction Matthew 16:21; 24 fulfilled by historical fact; and miracles John 2:1-22; John 11:47
2. Confirmed by competent and prophetic witnesses 2:3 confirmed by them that heard him
 - a. The word “confirm” and “steadfast” are from the same root word and thus mean that God’s word is affirmed as being sure!
 - b. The apostles were witnesses John 15:26-27; Acts 1:21-22; 4:33
 - c. They were reliable witnesses, integrity, honesty competency and number
 - i. Integrity of witness, Fear, Love of money, Pride
 - ii. Competency 1 John 1:1 Hearing seeing and feeling are used Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:3
 - iii. Number of witness I Corinthians 15:5-8 Heard 1 John 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:18; John 20:30; Luke 1:2; John 1:14
3. Verified by Miracles 2:4
 - a. They were witnesses
 - i. Purpose they were called signs
 - ii. Reaction they were called wonders
 - iii. Nature called miracles supernatural acts
 - iv. Source gifts of the Holy Ghost
 - b. Their characteristics
 - i. Not done in secret 2 Corinthians 12:12; Acts 2:22; 3:16; 26:26
 - ii. Instantaneously Mark 2:12 Matthew 8:13-15; Acts 3:7-8
 - iii. Perfectly Acts 3:16; 4:9
 - c. Their purpose to confirm
 - i. Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:4
 - ii. Not all could be healed 2 Timothy 4:20; Philippians 2:25-30
 - d. Gifts of the Holy Ghost
 - i. 1 Corinthians 12 – 14 deals with these the presence lack of permanence and the practice Ephesians 4:7-16
 - ii. Only give by the laying on of the apostles hands Acts 8:12-24
 - iii. These gifts were not to last forever Ephesians 4:13; 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
4. Our relationship to this certified Gospel
 - a. Believe it Ephesians 1:13
 - b. Obey it 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8
 - c. Love it Philippians 1:27
 - d. Preach it Mark 16:16; 1 Corinthians 9:26
 - e. Defend it Philippians 1:7, 17
 - f. Never change it Galatians 1:6-9
 - g. Judged by it Revelation 2:16 John 12:48

III Conclusion

1. The Gospel has been unquestionably established
2. Let us believe it, obey it, live it defend it and never change it
 3. How shall we escape if we neglect , respond now!

Source: Studies in Hebrews Denton lecture Hebrews 1983 Wendell Winkler p 68-86