

Galatians, Chapter One, Lesson Two

THE TRUTH OF GOD Galatians 1:6-10

STIMULATE

** In our study last week we learned that by "The Authority of God"; 1) Jesus Christ died on the cross to deliver us from this present evil age or world, 2) We are recipients of God's Grace and Peace and 3) We have been "sent" into the world to preach the gospel. Did anyone find themselves joining King David in his prayer for a clean heart and a renewed, steadfast spirit? (Psalm 51:10)

Yes! I personally was thankful for the Spirit's conviction that reminded me of my need to obey Him in light of all that Jesus has done for me!

MOTIVATE

** In a world of compromise and relativism, who's favor or approval should we be seeking and how will that help to prepare us for the defense of the gospel? In today's study we are going to see the assault of peer pressure, trying to delude "The Truth of God" and how we are to respond. Please join me in Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter one, verses 6-10.

Read passage (V.6-8) (V.9-10)

Opening Prayer

The Truth of God

INVESTIGATE

V. 6 ** As you look at the opening of Paul's letter to the Galatians, here in verse six, what is missing that appears in many of His other epistles?

A commendation to his readers...for example:

Ephesians 1:15-16 (for their faith)

Philippians 1:3-5 (for their participation in the gospel)

Colossians 1:3-4 (for their faith and love for all the saints)

1Thessalonians 1:2-3 (for their work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness of hope in Christ)

** What is the emotional preoccupation that has kept Paul from offering his typical pattern of commending his readers?

Amazement [thaumazo] - used here in the present tense, meaning that he is continually astonished or marveling at the condition of some of those in the region of Galatia.

** What is causing that?

Some of the Galatians were deserting the Father, for a different gospel!

** How do we know that they were deserting the Father?

Because He is the One "who called you by the grace of Christ".

cf. John 6:44-45 & 65, John 1:17

**** Do you think that these are mature Christians who had walked a long time with Christ before deserting the Father for a different gospel?**

No! These are all relatively new Christians! Paul uses the phrase "so quickly" in describing how much time had gone by between their salvation and desertion. It has been perhaps less than one year since the end of Paul's first missionary journey.

**** What was it about their calling that makes their desertion so painful to God?**

They (like us) had been called by grace. Remember from last week, the term speaks of unmerited favor. They could not earn that salvation and now they were turning their backs on it! cf. Titus 3:5

**** If some of the Galatians were turning away from the true Gospel, to what were they now turning?**

"...a different gospel..."

**** What are some of the elements at the heart of this different gospel?**

Faith in Jesus Christ PLUS keeping the Law!

cf. Gal.2:15-16, 3:1-3, 5:2-3

V. 7 ** Does that philosophy of life constitute a gospel?

No! It is a "gospel" in name only! cf. Rom.3:19-24

The term "gospel" means "good story" or "good news" i.e. Jesus Christ died to save you from your sin. The Judaizers' lie of salvation by keeping the Law was not good news!

**** What effect was this lie having on some of the believers in Galatia?**

It was mentally "disturbing" them with excitement, perplexity, and fear.

**** According to the end of this verse, what was the goal of the Judaizers?**

"...to distort the gospel of Christ..." It is important that they were not trying to throw it out totally. Satan's attacks are most effective when he merely distorts or perverts God's truth, rather than openly opposing it.

**** How would you answer someone who argued that you could become saved by believing in Jesus Christ and then earning your salvation?**

Romans 11:6 - It can't be both ways, the Bible says you are saved by Grace and you cannot earn it! cf.

Ephesians 2:5 & 8, Acts 15:11, Romans 5:15

V. 8 ** What is so unusual about Paul's statement regarding those who might preach a gospel contrary to "The Truth of God"?

He includes himself! "...even though we..."

**** Why would he do that?**

No one is exempt!!! No matter who it is, nobody is to mess with God's truth!

**** Why do you suppose Paul mentions angels?**

Because false religions and cults frequently have angelic-like visions to back up their satanic lie. cf. Colossians 2:18 and 2Corinthians 11:13-14

**** What is to be the impact upon the individuals life when he distorts the gospel?**

"...let him be accursed..." [anathema] carries the idea of "doomed to destruction".
cf. 2Thessalonians 1:6-9

V. 9 ** Looking closely at verses 8 & 9, what do you notice to be different about the way they are constructed?

Verse 8 - Is hypothetical, "...even though..."

Verse 9 - Is factual, "...if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary..."
(and he was! cf. V. 7)

**** What ray of hope do you see here in verse 9 regarding the Galatians' position with "The Truth of God"?**

They had "received" it! One to two years earlier, many in the region of Galatia had heard the gospel truth about Jesus Christ and received Him as their personal Lord and Savior!
cf. Philippians 1:6

**** How does Paul feel about this man who preached a gospel contrary to God's saving truth?**

Paul says again, "let him be accursed" (Gal.5:10).

Jesus went even further in Matthew 18:1-6, please turn there with me and let's see how the Lord feels about someone distorting His truth and upsetting His children. Read passage.

Now back in Galatians, chapter 1 ...

V.10 ** Why would Paul now introduce the subject of pleasing men?

Because that is exactly what the Judaizers were preoccupied with.

Matthew 6:1 "...to be noticed by [men]..."

Matthew 6:2 "...[to] be honored by men..."

Matthew 6:5 "...to be seen by men..."

Matthew 6:16 "...to be seen fasting by men..."

**** Was the apostle Paul ever a man-pleaser?**

Absolutely yes! Prior to his salvation, even his religious activity was in competition with all of his contemporaries. cf. Galatians 1:13-14

**** What proof does he now offer to show he is not interested in pleasing men?**

He "would not be a bond-servant of Christ" if he was still trying to please men! This ought to be the response of every true believer. Paul gave up everything for Christ, joyfully.

cf. Philippians. 3:4-8

** Can you think of another occasion in scripture where Christians were not interested in pleasing men, but rather were committed to proclaiming "The Truth of God"?

The apostles in Jerusalem, before the Sanhedrin, refused to obey their command to not preach in the name of Jesus Christ. cf. Acts 4:18-20, 5:27-29

** As bond-servants of Jesus Christ, should we be at all interested with pleasing men, when "The Truth of God" is at stake?

Absolutely not!

** As the apostle Paul preached the gospel throughout the region of Galatia (to the pleasure of God), what was it that he was saying? Can you think of a passage that clearly delineates the gospel?

1Corinthians 15:1-4 "The Truth of God", the gospel.

1) Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (V.3) cf. Isaiah 53:4-6

2) He was buried according to the Scriptures (V.4) cf. Isaiah 53:9

3) He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (V.4) cf. Psalm 16:10, Matthew 12:40 and 16:21

EXTRICATE

** What is the main danger or threat to someone who is new in their faith in Jesus Christ?

The danger of false doctrine, either about the gospel itself or about life in obedience to the Word of God. cf. Ephesians 4:14

** Does Satan wish to boldly attack the gospel by saying that it is all wrong and therefore should be thrown out?

No, he will use false teachers to "distort" the truth, and disturb as many people as he can by creating false religious systems that look very much like the true church of Jesus Christ.

DELINEATE

** In a world of compromise and relativism, who's favor or approval should we be seeking?

Only the approval of our Father in heaven.
cf. 2Timothy 2:15

** How will that help us to be prepared for the defense of the gospel?

By being willing to suffer, if necessary, as a bondservant of Jesus Christ, we can boldly march forward with "The Truth of God" knowing with confidence that we are pleasing Him who gave His Son for us.

EVALUATE

** As you look back over your typical week, do you find yourself becoming quiet when the discussion in the work place turns to "religious" things, in fear of what men may think of you?

Do you take a stand for Jesus Christ, when the unsaved world around you attacks Him by their words or deeds?

ACTIVATE

** Let me invite you now to take your stand for Jesus! In a moment of silent prayer let Him know that you will not be discouraged by peer pressure from living for Him. We too, like the apostle Peter, ought to be willing to say, "We must obey God rather than man".

If you will do that, then you will be prepared to proclaim "The Truth of God" to the lost and dying world in which we live.

Closing prayer