

The Book of Galatians

Lesson 04 –

Understanding and defending an unaccommodating gospel

Galatians 1:10-17



Introduction:

- Paul was a Lawyer
 - he was smart
 - he knew the word
 - he was trained by the top rabbi Gamaliel
- Chafers book on: “Grace the Glorious theme”
 - 1- Grace cannot be withheld because of demerit
 - 2- Grace cannot be lessened because of demerit

- Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:14)
- Iconium (Acts 13:51-14:4)
- Lystra (Acts 14:6)
- Derbe (Acts 14:6)



Lesson Outline:

I. Textual notes:

II. Exposition:

III. Significance:

Verses 10-13:

10 Ἄρτι γὰρ ἀνθρώπους πείθω ἢ τὸν θεόν; Ἡ ζητῶ ἀνθρώποις ἀρέσκειν; Εἰ γὰρ ἔτι ἀνθρώποις ἤρεσκον, χριστοῦ δοῦλος οὐκ ἂν ἦμην.

For am I now convincing God or men? Or do I seek to accommodate men? For if I was still accommodating men, I was not a servant of Christ.

11 Γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον.

But I make known to you, brethren, the gospel that was preached by me is not according to man.

12 Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ.

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it (by man), but through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 Ἦκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφὴν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν.

For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, that I was persecuting the church of God to an extraordinary degree and was destroying it.

Textual Notes:

- **Aorist**
- **Imperfect**
- “it portrays the action from within the event, without regard for beginning or end. For the most part, the aorist takes a snapshot of the action while the imperfect (like the present) takes a motion picture, portraying the action as it unfolds. As such, the imperfect is often incomplete and focuses on the process of the action.” - Wallace
- “am I now convincing God or men?” cf. 1 Sam. 24: 7
- **ἀρέσκειν** BDAG:
2- pleasure/satisfaction, please, accommodate.
ⓐ a favored term in the reciprocity-conscious Mediterranean world, and frequently used in honorary documents to express interest in accommodating others by meeting their needs or carrying out important obligations

Verses 14-17:

14 καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτῆς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων.

And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many contemporaries in my nation, being far more zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

15 Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ,
But when it pleased God, who had set me apart from the womb of my mother and had called me by his grace,

16 ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι.
To reveal His Son to me, in order that I proclaim Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood;

17 οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν.
nor did I go up to Jerusalem to the apostle before me, rather I went away to Arabia, and then returned again to Damascus.

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I. Textual notes:

II. Exposition:

III. Significance:

Exposition: Parts of the Passage

- 1- Addressing the accusation v. 10
- 2- Paul's defense vv. 11-12 (two-fold defense)
- 3- Paul's evidence vv. 13-17 (1:13-2:21)

Exposition: Parts of the Passage

1- Addressing the accusation v. 10

- Paul is asking:

“Am I trying to persuade God to accept you by the gospel I preach, or am I trying to convince you of the gospel God has given to me to preach?”

- The issue is accommodation, and persuading.

Exposition: Parts of the Passage

1- Addressing the accusation v. 10

2- Paul's defense vv. 11-12 (two-fold defense)

- FF Bruce (DTS preeminent Pauline Commentator)

He said, “as a lawyer Paul dealt with this accusation by building a defensive case”.

- * (contained in v. 12)

- * “is not according to man” (Gal. 3:1- 6:10)

- * “I neither received it from man” (Gal. 1:13-2:21)

Exposition: Parts of the Passage

- 1- Addressing the accusation v. 10
- 2- Paul's defense vv. 11-12 (two-fold defense)
- 3- Paul's evidence vv. 13-17 (1:13-2:21)
 - Paul used to serve man in Judaism
 - Paul was chosen from the womb to serve God (cf. Jeremiah 1:4-5)

Exposition: Parts of the Passage

- Paul was chosen from the womb to serve God
(cf. Jeremiah 1:4-5)

Has God done this before?

- Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)
- Isaac (Gen. 21:12) “for in Isaac your seed shall be called”
- Jacob (cf. Rom. 9:6-16)
- Joseph “what you intended for evil, God intended for good”
- Jeremiah
- The 12 (John 17:6-17)

Exposition: Parts of the Passage

- 1- Addressing the accusation v. 10
- 2- Paul's defense vv. 11-12 (two-fold defense)
- 3- Paul's evidence vv. 13-17 (1:13-2:21)
 - Paul used to serve man in Judaism
 - Paul was chosen from the womb to serve God (cf. Jeremiah 1:4-5)
 - Paul was called to serve God (cf. Acts 9)
 - Paul did not hold conference with man for at least 3 years (cf. Gal. 1:18)

Exposition: Parts of the Passage

What is the implication of God choosing Paul in relation to us?

Gentiles have been chosen to receive the gospel on the basis of Grace and the by means of faith in Christ.

Exposition:

A. What is being said:

- Paul serves God not man v. 10c
- Paul's gospel is not according to man v. 11
- Paul did not receive the gospel from man v. 12a
- Paul was not taught (instructed) the gospel by man v. 12b
- Paul used to serve man in Judaism:
 - * by persecuting the church v. 13b
 - * by being a foremost student v. 14
- Paul was chosen by God from the womb v. 15
- Paul was chosen to preach Christ among the Gentiles v. 16
- Paul was instructed by God and not man vv. 16b-17

Lesson Outline:

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Significance:

- A. What is the significance of these facts?:
- The gospel Paul preached was from God
 - Proven by:
 - * Revelation v. 12
 - * Reception v. 12
 - * Transformation vv. 13-16
 - * Sovereign sanctification v. 15
 - * Instruction vv. 16-17

 - Additional considerations:

Significance:

A. What is the significance of these facts?:

- Additional considerations:
 - Salvation is on the basis of God's grace
 - i. God sovereignly chose Gentiles to receive this message through the ministry of Paul
 - ii. Grace cannot be increased or decreased based on merit or demerit.

 - Salvation is in Christ alone
 - Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone

Significance:

A. What is the significance of these facts?:

- Additional considerations:

- It is God's gospel, not mans.

- i. Paul's key argument is that the gospel he had preached to the Galatians was directly from God and not any man. He knew what it was like to be driven and motivated by the purposes of man. But now he is driven and motivate by the purposes of God.

- ii. Additionally, the gospel being from God, means that man has absolutely no say in what it should or should not contain. We are bound by what God has revealed. And what has been revealed is that ANY who trust the gospel receives the free gift of eternal life.

Significance:

A. What is the significance of these facts?:

- Additional considerations:

- It is God's grace, not mans.

iii. God is the One who dispenses His grace, it is not for man to decide who receives it and who does not. This implied illustration is within the very text. IF God's grace is extended to Paul it is extended to ALL!

Book Outline:

- I. **(1: 1 – 2: 21) The True Gospel Defended**
(An Autobiographical Explanation)
- II. **(3: 1 – 4: 31) The True Gospel Explained**
(A Doctrinal Exposition)
- III. **(5: 1 – 6: 18) The True Gospel Applied**
(A Practical Exhortation)