

The Absurdity of Christian Apostasy

Part 3

Galatians 4:17–20

**Acts 16:5** So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

Defend Gospel Defend Apostleship.

Accused the Apostle Paul of pandering to the crowd.	Gal.1:10
Accused the Apostle Paul of preaching a man-made gospel	Gal.1:11
Accused the Apostle Paul of being a self-proclaimed apostle.	Gal.1:15–16a
Accused the Apostle Paul of being at odds with the other apostles.	Gal.2:9

Low life cock roaches sneaking in when Paul is not around.

Creepy crawly creatures of the darkness.

Hidden reefs that will destroy the joy of one's salvation,

Destroying the freedom, one has in grace and enslaving one to the hopelessness of human merit.

Undermining the truth of the gospel.

***Christian apostasy is absurd because it is a rejection of the blessedness of God's grace.***

Grace of God in Christianity can be seen in how a Christian comes to know God.

Grace of God in Christianity can be seen in how a Christian becomes right with God.

***Christian apostasy is absurd because it is a rejection of the privilege of participating in the ministry of the word of God***

Attending the preaching of the word of God.

Serving the ministry of the word of God.

Giving to the ministry of the word of God

Absorbing the ministry of the word of God.

***Christian apostasy is absurd because it is a rejection of the honor of having Christ formed within you.***

In our passage today Paul is going to point out to his readers that he has sought after them in order to see Christ formed in them where as the Judaizers are seeking after them so that they might be more conformed to the likeness of the Judaizers.

The seductive nature of the teaching of the Judaizers was causing those who had become Christians under Paul's ministry to doubt the truth of the Gospel which in turn was causing these people to view Paul as their enemy. Paul wanted the readers to focus on the grace of God found within the truth of the Gospel so that Christ could be formed in them. The Judaizers wanted these same readers to reject the Paul's teaching about the grace of God and turn away from the truth of the Gospel as presented by Paul. The Judaizers wanted the Galatian Christians to stop focusing on the grace of God and instead focus on them, the Judaizers. Paul wanted his readers to focus on God's truth so that Christ could be formed within them. The Judaizers wanted these same readers to focus on man's truth so that they could be zealous for man and become more like man.

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**The Galatian Christian is being sought after in the wrong way. Galatians 4:17**

The end goal of the false teacher is to get you to focus on them and not the truth.

Don't trust Paul. Paul is not teaching the truth. Paul's gospel will not make you right with God. Paul's gospel will leave you under the judgment of God. Paul is not your friend Paul is your enemy. Paul is no messenger of God.

We are your true friends. Seek us not the apostle. Follow our teaching not Paul's self-proclaimed gospel of truth.

**Romans 16: 18** For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

These are the type of men who teach by craftiness and in deceitful scheming. They represent the trickery of men. The church's greatest defense against such scoundrels is to be edified and equipped with the sound teaching of God's word. This is what will enable the church to obtain a unity of faith and a unity of the knowledge of the Son of God such as belongs to the mature Christian. A maturity that is measured by the likeness which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

These are the type of men who were offended by the teaching of Jesus that exposed the hypocrisy of the self-righteous religious leaders of Israel. What was it that Jesus said of those who were offended by his teaching. They were blind guides trying to lead blind men. What do you do with a blind guide? You leave them you abandon them, because if you don't you prove you are spiritually blind. In which case you would have two groups of people doomed to fall into a pit.

**The Galatian Christian needs to be sought after in the right way. Galatians 4:18.**

Talk about exchanging the glory of the incorruptible God for the glory of the corruptible,

**What is the right way to be sought after? Galatians 4:19**

**2 Corinthians 11:23–29** A beautiful picture of Paul's concern for believers.

**Colossians 3:9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, **10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

The mind of the believer needs to be daily renewed so that the believer can be growing in Christ likeness. Now we behold Christ likeness within us dimly as when looking in a 1<sup>st</sup> century looking glass. But there will come a day when Christ is revealed that we will be conformed into an exact likeness of Christ.

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**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

**Colossians 1:16** For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

**Hebrews 1:3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. **7** There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.

Gabriel described Christ as the Son of the Most High to Whom God was going to give the throne of David and that he would reign over the house of Jacob forever and their would be no end to His kingdom.

Simeon referred to him as the salvation of his people and the light of revelation to the Gentiles.

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##### **Christian Apostasy is perplexing. Galatians 4:20**

Paul was perplexed by those whom he had ministered to while in the Southern Galatia region. When he had last been with these churches, when he had last seen them face to face they were being strengthened in their faith and they were increasing in number every day. Now they were ready to abandon the holy and divine doctrine he had taught them in order to become enslaved to the false teachings of the Judaizers.

Consider how many churches today have abandon the Christian doctrine of grace for Satan's lie concerning the merit of man.

Depend on your giving. Depend on your church attendance, Depend upon your giftedness.

Considered how many churches have abandon the joy of the ministry of the word of God for Satan's deception concerning the joy of following the ways of man.

Depend on programs, Follow human psychology man is a victim who is entitled to be treated rightly and fairly and to take matters into one's own hands to ensure such treatment does not happen. Follow human philosophy, life is all about man and his happiness. Health wealth, prestige, power

Consider how many churches are not concerned with seeing Christ formed within those who are in attendance. with me for a moment how many have abandon being pursued by those who have Christ formed in them to follow someone who desires to be the object of transformation.