

“Servants Of Christ!”
Galatians 1:10-12

Introduction:

1. As We Continue Our Series On Sunday Mornings:
 - Please Head Back Over With Me To:
 - The Book Of Galatians!
 - **IE:** When I Was Still In High School, I Had A Friend Named Tom!
 - Tom Was A College Student At The Time:
 - And He Had Recently Been Saved!
 - One Day - At One Of Our Church’s Youth Activities:
 - Tom Was Asked To Give His Testimony Of Salvation!
 - As I Listened To His Testimony:
 - I Was Amazed As Tom Shared How The Lord Had Saved Him:
 - From A Life Of Drug Abuse & Even From A Life Of Drug Dealing!
 - It Was Truly A Dramatic Testimony:
 - Of The Life-Changing Power Of The Gospel!
 - And I Was Impressed!
 - Not With Tom, But With What The Lord Had Done For Tom!
 - Perhaps You Too:
 - Have Been Impressed At One Time Or Another With Someone Else’s Testimony:
 - Of Salvation From Their Deep, Dark Life Of Sin!
 - There Used To Be A Radio Program Titled:
 - “Unshackled” - Where They Would Share A Dramatic Presentation Of A Person’s Testimony!
 - Well - For Several Years After - I Struggled With Doubts:
 - About My Own Salvation!
 - Because My Testimony Didn’t Seem As Dramatic Or Impressive!
 - Until Another Friend Of Mine Shared His Testimony Of Salvation – Bob!
 - And His Testimony Was A Lot Like Mine!
 - Saved As A Child, And Having Been Raised In A Christian Home, The Lord Spared Him:
 - From Nearly Everything Tom Had Went Through!
 - And Yet - His Testimony Was Just As Amazing To Me!
 - And It Was At That Moment That I Discovered This Truth:
 - That **Any** Testimony & **Every** Testimony Of Salvation Is A Dramatic Story Of The Life-Changing Power Of Jesus Christ!
 - Because Every Born-Again Christian:
 - Is A Miracle!
 - And Because For Every True Christian:
 - The Gospel Changes Things!
 - The Gospel Changed:
 - Tom’s Life!
 - Bob’s Life!
 - And It Had Even Changed My Life!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 Was True For Us All - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
 - The Gospel Changes Things!
 - And This Is What The Apostle Paul Himself:
 - Is Emphasizing In The Verses We Come To This Morning In Galatians Chapter 1!
 - Paul Wants To Show The Great Power:
 - Of The True Gospel:
 - And How No Other Message Can Compare!
 - And We See This In 1:10-12:
 - “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. / But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. / For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ!”
 - The True Gospel Of Jesus Christ:
 - Had Dramatically Changed The Life Of The Apostle Paul!
 - And It Will Change Our Lives As Well!

- Let's See How!

* First - The True Gospel Gives Us:

1. A New Divine Purpose!

- We See This In Verse 10:
 - Where Paul Asks These Questions:
 - “For Do I Now Persuade Men, Or God? Or Do I Seek To Please Men?”
- What Was The Old Purpose:
 - For Paul's Life?
 - To Be The Best Jew He Could Be!
 - In Philippians 3:4-7 - Paul Shares What This Was Like - “Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: / Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; / Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless!”
 - Yet - He Wasn't Impressing God! He Was Only Trying To Impress Others & Especially Himself!
 - But Because Jesus Saved Him, He Adds In Verse 4:
 - “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ!”
 - The True Gospel Changed His Purpose!
 - And Now - Instead Of Seeking To Merely Please Others & Himself:
 - He Could Please God!
 - And That Made All The Difference!
 - Because God Himself “Hath Made Us Accepted In The Beloved!” (Ephesians 1:6)
 - So Now - His Divine Purpose Was To:
- Persuade God:
 - Not Men!
 - The Word “Persuade” Here Means To “Seek The Approval Of” Someone!
 - The Purpose Of Paul's Life Now:
 - And Even Of His Letter:
 - Was Not Now For The Approval Of Men!
 - But For The Approval Of God!
 - This Is Why He Wrote What He Did:
 - And Even How! He Could Never Have Written Such Strong Language In Verses 8-9 If He Were Just Seeking The Approval Of Men!
 - But Also - His Divine Purpose Was To:
- Please God:
 - Not Men!
 - Paul's Goal Was Not Just To Make The Galatian Christians Feel Like Everything Was OK In Their Lives & In Their Churches:
 - When Things Were Clearly **Not** OK!
 - His New Purpose Was To:
 - Glorify & Please The Lord!
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:4 - “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts!”
- Remember - It Is The Gospel That Changes Things!
 - Just Like For Paul:
 - It Changes The Very Purpose Of Our Lives As Well!
 - No Longer Is Our Purpose:
 - To Merely Pacify & Please Men!
 - But It Is Now To Please God!
 - Yet How Often To We Stray From Our New Purpose!
 - And Focus Our Attention On Gaining The Affection Or The Applause Of Others!
 - Let Us - By God's Grace & Strength To:
 - Have As Our New Purpose:
 - To Glorify & To Please The Lord!

* Because He Has Also Given Us:

2. A New Divine Service!

- We Also See This In Verse 10:

- Where Paul Adds:
 - “For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ!”
- What Was The Old Service Like:
 - In Paul’s Life?
 - He Thought He Was Serving God:
 - But In Truth, He Was Serving The Jews Who Were Trying To Stop The Christians At All Costs!
 - He Was Also Seeking To Serve Himself:
 - And To Promote & Advance Himself In His Religion!
 - 1:14 - “And profited (advanced) in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers!”
 - But The True Gospel Changed His Service!
 - And Now – Instead Of Merely Serving Others & Himself:
 - He Could Serve The Lord!
 - And There Can Be No Greater Honor Than Serving God!
 - **IE:** Not Even Serving In The Administration Of A President! Former Candidates Looking For A Job! Endorse!
 - In Colossians 3:23-24 - Paul Reminds Us Of Our Great Privilege: “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; / Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ!”
 - And For Paul - There Is No Greater Tragedy:
 - Than Not Serving The Savior!
 - Which Is Why He Says Here, Again - “For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ!”
- Remember - It Is The Gospel That Changes Things!
 - Just Like For Paul:
 - It Changes The Service Of Our Lives As Well!
 - We, Too, Now “Serve The Lord Christ!”
 - And We Must Not Turn Back!
 - If The Primary Goal In Your Life:
 - Is To Please A Person:
 - Then You Are That Person’s Servant!
 - Whether That Person Is:
 - Your Spouse / Your Employer / A Friend!
 - But When The Primary Goal In Your Life:
 - Is To Please The Lord:
 - Then You Will Serve The Lord **By** Serving Others!
 - Just As Paul Tells Servants In Ephesians 6:6-7 To Serve:
 - “Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; / With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men!”
 - Remember That The Greatest Privilege We Have Is To Serve The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And It Is The True Gospel That Makes It All Possible!
 - John Eadie - “No One Can Serve Him Who Makes It His Study To Be Popular With Men! For To His Servant His Will Is The One Law, His Work Is The One Service, His Example The One Pattern, His Approval The Continuous Aim, And His Final Acceptance The One Great Hope!”

* We Have Also Received:

3. ***A New Divine Message!***

- Which We See In Verse 11:
 - “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man!”
- What Was The Old Message:
 - That Paul Gave?
 - It Was To Keep The Law Of God & The Traditions Of His Fathers!
 - **IE:** Most Of The Other “Messages” Out There Are So Complicated & Convolutud!
 - But As He Would Later Learn - “By The Works Of The Law Shall No Flesh Be Justified!” (Galatians 2:16)
 - But The True Gospel Changed His Message!
 - It Was Fresh & Freeing & Simple & Satisfying!
 - And Now – Instead Of Being Just Another Message From Man, It Was **The** Message From God!

- And We See:
 - The Declaration Of This Message!
 - Paul Writes - "But I Certify You, Brethren!"
 - Or - "I Declare Unto You!"
 - He Wanted Them & Us To Know The Truth & The Certainty Of The Gospel!
 - As Well As:
 - The Delight Of This Message!
 - The "Gospel" Means The "Good Message!"
 - The "Good News!"
 - And It Was:
 - The First Message:
 - Paul Preached To Them! It Was:
 - The Only Message:
 - Paul Preached To Them! And It Was:
 - The Powerful Message:
 - That Saved Them & Changed Them!
 - And Made Them "Brothers" & Sisters In Christ!
 - And "The Gospel That Was Preached [By Paul] Was Not After Man!"
 - Because Of:
 - The Difference Of This Message!
 - "Not After / Not According To Man!"
 - The True Gospel Is Altogether Different Than A Man's Gospel!
 - It Is Not "After Man's Style!"
 - All Of The Other So-Called Gospels:
 - Really Are Essentially The Same!
 - Whether They Believe In One God Or In Many Gods!
 - Man's Gospels:
 - Are Not By Grace, But By Merit!
 - Man's Gospels:
 - Are Not For Salvation, But For Improvement!
 - Man's Gospels"
 - Are Not Through Faith, But Through Works!
 - In Fact, Man's Gospels Are Not Gospels At All! They Are Not "Good News!"
 - Think Of All The Different Religions That We Have Covered In Our Adult Sunday School Class:
 - Jehovah's Witnesses / Mormons / Islam / Hinduism / Buddhism / Modern Judaism!
 - There Is No Truly "Good News" In Any Of Them!
 - Instead They All Maintain A "Yoke Of Bondage" For Everyone Who Adheres To Them!
 - But We Must Remember That:
 - The Gospel Changes Things!
 - It Changes Our Message As Well!
 - Why Paul Says In Galatians 5:1 - "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage!"
 - This Is Our New Message!
 - For There Is & There Can Be No Other Gospel!

* Because It Also Gives Us:

4. A New Divine Commission!

- Which We Find In Verse 12:
 - "For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ!"
- Paul's Old Commission:
 - Was From Man!
 - In Acts 9:1-2 - "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, / And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem!"
 - And They Were Happy To Oblige!
 - But The Gospel Changed All That!
 - And Paul Received A New Commission:
 - Directly From The Lord Jesus Himself!

- No Man Transmitted:
 - The Gospel To Paul!
 - “I Neither Received It Of Man!”
- No Man Taught:
 - The Gospel To Paul!
 - “Neither Was I Taught It!”
- But The Gospel Message:
 - Came Directly From The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Who Is No Mere Man - But Is The Divine Son Of God!
 - So Paul Became The Ambassador Of Christ!
 - And It Was Upon His Authority That He Preached & Proclaimed The Truth!
- The Gospel Has Changed Our Commission As Well!
 - And Even Though We Have Been:
 - And Continue To Be:
 - Taught The Truth Of The Gospel By Other Men!
 - Yet - Our Commission Comes Directly From The Lord As Well!
 - For The Words Of This Book – The Bible – Are Not Man’s Words:
 - But God’s!
 - And He Tells Each One Of Us – Directly – To:
 - Mark 16:15 - “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature!”

Conclusion:

1. Oh – How The Gospel Changes Things!
 - Through The Gospel:
 - Every Christian Receives:
 - A New Purpose!
 - Not To Just Please Man Any Longer, But To Please God!
 - A New Service!
 - To Serve The Lord Christ! There Is No Greater Privilege In All Of The World!
 - A New Message!
 - That Really Is Good News!
 - A New Commission!
 - And The Authority Of God To Proclaim It Wherever We Go!
 - Never Forget The Great Power & The Great Privilege:
 - Of The True Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
 - Because There Is No Other “Gospel” Out There:
 - That Can Do What Jesus Has Done!
 - “How That Christ Died For Our Sins According To The Scriptures; And That He Was Buried, And That He Rose Again The Third Day According To The Scriptures!” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
 - And That “Whosoever Believeth In Him Should Not Perish, But Have Everlasting Life!” (John 3:15)
 - It Was This Message:
 - That Changed The Life Of Paul!
 - And It Was This Message That Changed:
 - The Lives Of My Friends: Tom & Bob!
 - And It Was This Message That:
 - Has Changed My Life!
 - And Will Change Your Life!
 - For There Is Nothing Else Like The True Gospel:
 - In All The World!

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