

Defense of the Truth

Galatians 1:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Special Counsel investigation into Russian involvement in election
- Leaders come under fire!
- Defending oneself against false accusations is a tough task!
- The truth, though, is worth defending!
- Paul is under siege, and must defend the truth!

Defense of the Truth

A. Paul's MOTIVES—Galatians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

1. Possible accusations and insinuations of Paul's opponents
2. Possible misunderstanding of Paul's teaching as recorded in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22
3. Paul is NOT a people-pleaser!
 - a. Railing condemnation of false teachers is proof.
 - b. Description of "people-pleasers"—1 Thessalonians 2
 - 1) Mixes error with truth—v. 3
 - 2) Does not preach personal holiness—v. 3
 - 3) Does not tell the whole truth—v. 3
 - 4) Plays on emotions—v. 5
 - 5) Interested in the bottom line: money—v. 5
 - 6) Concerned about name recognition—v. 6
4. Paul as a "Bond-servant" pleases Jesus Christ
 - a. Difference between a "servant" and a "bond-servant"
 - b. O.T. Background—Deuteronomy 15:16-17
 - c. N.T. Concept—Romans 12:1-2

B. Paul's MESSAGE—Galatians 1:11-12

1. Paul "certifies" his message!
2. What does Paul desire to make "perfectly clear"?
 - a. His message was not devised by man!—1:11
 - b. His message was not received from man—1:12
 - c. His message came directly from Jesus Christ—1:12
 - 1) Paul saw the MAN—a "revelation of Jesus Christ"
 - 2) Paul received his MESSAGE directly.—Acts 26:15-18
3. TODAY, we do not receive direct revelation from God
 - a. Normal transmission of truth—2 Timothy 2:2
 - b. We have all the revelation we need in Scripture—2Tim. 3