

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Bible Study Series: Living by Faith – Galatians

Lesson 8. False Brethren – Gal. 2:1-5

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: When the seed is sown, it isn't always good seed! Be aware of tares and savage wolves – Matthew 13:24-30; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Tim. 4:1-2

- I. The Timeline – vs. 1-2
 - A. Trips to Jerusalem
 1. 3 Years - Conversion, Wilderness, Damascus
 2. First Jerusalem Trip – 15 days to see Peter and James
 3. Second Jerusalem Trip – relief for the saints – Acts 11:27-30; 12:24-25
 4. 14 Years after the First Trip - Third Jerusalem Trip for Acts 15 Meeting
 5. Total 17 Years of Preaching Ministry – Gal. 1:11-12, 16-17
 - B. Meeting the Apostles and Elders – Acts 15:1-5, 30-35
 1. In private
 2. To demonstrate that Paul's gospel was:
 - a. Independent of the Apostles
 - b. Identical to the Apostles
 3. Paul told to go to Jerusalem by revelation
 - a. Not summoned by the Apostles
 - b. Not on his own initiative to defend himself
 - c. "One cannot be a separatist and at the same time be a passionate advocate of God's free grace." - Cousar
 - d. Paul approved, Judaizers denounced
- II. The Evidence – vs. 3
 - A. Paul, Barnabas, and Titus – 2 witnesses
 - B. Titus, an Uncircumcised Greek Believer – Acts 15:19
 1. Proof law keeping was not necessary for salvation
 2. Adding a requirement for belief/practice beyond salvation by grace alone through faith alone presents another gospel – ie. Hyper-calvinism
 - C. What About Timothy? – Acts 16:1-3
 1. Half Jewish
 2. His circumcision did not make him Christian
 3. Without circumcision, he could not enter the synagogues – 1 Cor. 9:19-23
- III. The Underminers – vs. 4-5
 - A. False Brethren
 1. Pseudoadelphos – "pseudo-Christians" (JB Phillips)
 2. Their message wasn't Jewish because they accepted Christ
 3. Their message wasn't Christian because it demanded obedience to the Law of Moses for salvation
 - B. Undermining Liberty
 1. Secretly spying out, to sabotage – 2 Tim. 3:1-9
 2. Enslaving to tradition and the teaching of men – Matt. 15:9
 - a. Legalism – the bondage of believing my self-righteousness and ritualistic law keeping saves me
 - b. Belief that if you do not have perfect understanding or practice then you cannot be saved
 - C. True Christians are Free – Rom. 7:6; 2 Cor. 3:17; John 8:36; Rom. 6:18; Gal. 5:13
 1. Free from law keeping as a means of salvation

2. Free from the external rituals fulfilled by Christ – Matt. 5:17
 3. Free from the curse of the law – Gal. 3:13; Rom. 8:2
- D. Do Not Yield an Inch to Accommodate False Christians!

Cross References

Matthew 13:24-30

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ’ ”

Acts 20:28-30

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

Acts 11:27-30

27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 12:24-25

24 But the word of God grew and multiplied. 25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

Galatians 1:11-12

11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:16-17

16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Acts 15:1-5

15 And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question. 3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. 4 And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

Acts 15:30-35

30 So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. 32 Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. 33 And after they had stayed there for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles. 34 However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there. 35 Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Acts 15:19

19 Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,

Acts 16:1-3

16 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

2 Timothy 3:1-9

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Matthew 15:9

9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”

Romans 7:6

6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

2 Corinthians 3:17

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

John 8:36

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Romans 6:18

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Galatians 5:13

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Matthew 5:17

17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

Romans 8:2

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),