

Galatians 1:10-17 –Confront sin; Speak of Christ

Robertson, Trapp, TSK, GreekLexicon, Handfuls, Reinecker, Geneva, Poole, PNT, Family, Henry, Clarke, JFB, Calvin, Abbot, Vincent

Beloved in the Lord: **God greeted his children** in Galatia letting them know that **judicially** he had nothing against them because all their sins were paid for by Christ on the cross.

Paternally, as a Father, he saw his children falling into danger by believing men were **not just saved by Jesus' work on the cross** but they had to **do work** to complete that salvation.

Some even started believing good works were totally able to save and the cross was not necessary at all...except to be a good example of sacrificing for others. **So God gave them a stern warning, even telling them the false teachers who were doing these things were going to hell.**

Today you'll see Apostle Paul explaining **that because he submitted to God, he had to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ**, even if he hurt the feelings of others.

Our headings are:

Apostle Paul had to please God, not man

Apostle Paul had to preach Christ, not salvation by works

Our goals are: **That you will ignore the pressure to compromise your Christian faith, especially about the necessity of Christ's atonement, and that you will boldly speak of Christ – the only hope for the world.**

Apostle Paul had to please God, not man

10 For do I now persuade [**want to please**] men, or God? Or do I **seek [work] to please men?** For if I still pleased men, I would not be a **bondservant of Christ.**

1. Apostle Paul said his job was not to live to please men or flatter them with lies about their own abilities, but to please God.

The best translation of “persuade” is “want to please by actions.” So the question literally was: “**For do I now want to please men, or do I want to please God?**” Apostle Paul was not interested in pleasing men but pleasing God.

This meant he had to tell new Christians what they needed to hear. He wasn't to stroke their heads! He had to preach.

This meant he was not to try to get along with these false teachers, but he had to stop them! The Judaizers tried to make salvation “a humanly achievable” thing! But salvation was not humanly achievable. They were fooling new Christians.

2. Apostle Paul said if he worked to please men (tell others what they wanted to hear or not confront their sins), he would *not be a good servant of Christ.*

1Thessalonians 2: 4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

A bondservant *only had one loyalty!* **And as a bondservant, his goal was to bring others to be bondservants of Christ by preaching the truth.**

3. Lessons:

a. Don't tell people what they want to hear – trying to curry-favor with them. If you curry-favor with them, you might make them your friend, **but you will lose your friendship with God.**

The godly want to please God, not get the approval of men. If you want applause of men, you can't serve Christ.

Luke 6:26 **Woe to you when all men speak well of you,** For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

b. Instead of telling them what they want to hear, tell them about Jesus and their lostness without him. This is the goal of every good minister.

Go after men's ego.

No one who is proud can be saved in that state. He must be humbled.

This will please God.

c. Confront wicked men who are posing a threat to God's people. Don't back down. Don't be afraid. Don't be ashamed.

God did not call you to be liked. This is important as a parent as well. (Too many parents are afraid of losing their kids so they compromise.) And as an elder...

d. You might think your words aren't as powerful. If you think this way, you are wrong. Your words are even more powerful than you think.

You have everything God wants man to know...every single thing...in his Word! Speak up.

Apostle Paul had to preach Christ, not salvation by works

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.**

1. He said his job from God was to teach new Christians the full Gospel of Christ – the Gospel that came from heaven.

He did not receive the Gospel from the Pharisee Gamaliel in Jerusalem or from the University in Tarsus. **On the other hand, the Judaizer's Gospel came from themselves and exalted human thought.**

Yes, Apostle Paul *wasn't excluding* that the church must call men to the ministry (he submitted to it in Antioch with Barnabas), but he was showing his calling was extraordinary.

This meant the people were to give more serious attention to what he was saying about salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. The Gospel was not “good works.”

1Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you first **of all that which I also received**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

13 For you have heard of **my former conduct in Judaism**, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, **being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.**

2. He said he was a former persecutor of God's people with the stated goal of destroying the church, but he became a servant with a different goal: to preach the full Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul was **well-schooled in the Old Testament as he advanced in Judaism** (Pharisaism). He previously believed in salvation by works. And he persecuted Christians who believed in salvation by grace through faith in Christ. He persecuted them with passion.

He really believed he was doing the right thing when he opposed Jesus!

Acts 8:3 As **for Saul, he made havoc of the church**, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

Acts 9:1 Then Saul, still **breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord**, went to the high priest...

But now Apostle Paul said these Jewish liars' messages would spread like cancer...like other false teachers before...and even as he did.

2Timothy 3:8 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. 13 **But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.**

15 But when it pleased God, who **separated me from my mother's womb** and **called me through His grace**, flesh and blood,
3. He said God prepared him even from before he was born – as was mentioned of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist, and called him to himself when he was older (Isaiah 49, Jeremiah 1, Luke 1).

The Pharisees were often considered the separatist party, so using similar language, Apostle Paul said he was separated, not to be a Pharisee, but to be **a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

And since he was singled out and called to preach, no one should stand in his way!

What a wonderful change – from a **persecutor to a preacher!**

16 to reveal His Son in me, that **I might preach [Christ] Him among the Gentiles**, I did not immediately confer with
4. He said God called him to preach the Gospel of Christ to the Gentiles.

Acts 26:15 "So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, **'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** 16 'But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, **to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.** 17 'I will deliver you from the Jewish people, **as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,** 18 'to open their eyes, in order **to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness**

of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

These were Jesus' direct words to the Apostle Paul.

1Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

There was no forgiveness in animal sacrifices!

5. He said God called him directly – even though this was not normally done for a minister.

The Judaizers were challenging Apostle Paul because he was not taking direction from the Pharisees! He chose to take direction directly from the Lord Jesus – the one above the Pharisees!

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**.

6. He said God did not send him to Jerusalem to get the approbation of the apostles, but rather, sent him to Arabia.

(Even when he finally went to Jerusalem 3 years later, he only stayed there 15 days, showing that his apostleship was not based on the authority of the other Apostles.)

Instead, Apostle Paul went to Arabia – the Tents of Kedar– like Moses and Elijah! There he was prepared by God through instruction and discipline. He started preaching Christ there.

Then he went to Damascus – the place where he was going to persecute Christians when he met with Jesus – to preach the Gospel there.

Because he went to foreign countries without consulting with the Apostles, **Judaizers then could not accuse Apostle Paul of being “corrupted” with false doctrines by the other Apostles.**

7. Lessons:

a. To fight against faithful preachers of the Gospel is to fight against Christ – his life, death, and resurrection. *To fight against faithless preachers is to fight for Christ – for his kingdom and his people.*

b. The law and the Gospel are not the same. The law leads to the Gospel. They are not equals.

c. When God calls you to himself, you are never the same. He changes you inside and out—from a serpent to a servant!

You will sacrifice yourself for others.

You will give up money for others.

You would live for others.

You can't help but speak.

God's Words will be like fire shut-up in your bones!

d. What is the most important thing you must speak? It is this: There is no other way of salvation than by receiving what Jesus did on the cross by faith.

This is what the world needs to hear.

e. Do your children hear of salvation by grace through faith?

It is nice to tell children to watch out for dangers from bad people. It is good to teach them to eat right. But do they think that salvation is a clean room, showering regularly, brushing their teeth, having good manners, or giving money to the poor?

The most important thing they must hear is their need to put their trust in Jesus alone!

If you don't teach them about Jesus for their salvation you are sentencing them to death with clean teeth!

Conclusion:

Apostle Paul had to live to please God, not men. In doing this, he **spoke strongly that salvation was by grace through faith, in Christ alone.** There was no salvation by good works.

Brothers and sisters in the Lord:

1. Don't ever stop speaking the truth of God's Word. You are commanded to speak.

The world is full of ignorance. Tell the world what it needs to hear in all aspects of human life. Only you have the answers.

2. More importantly, don't ever stop speaking of the one and only way to be saved – receiving Christ's work on the cross.

You might not be popular.

You might be persecuted.

But Christ is the only hope the world has and you have him in the palm of your hands!

Share him...generously.

3. Would you be able to stand up before God and say you did not tell others about the only way of salvation and you allowed them to think they were okay because you did not want them to dislike you?

Finally: No cross, no salvation. Look to the cross and live. Try to do good works for your salvation, you will go to hell. You can't do any good work to please God. Only the work of Christ on the cross will save you.