

Gal. 1 :1-5

8/2/09

First sermon in text of Galatians:

Intro: It is amazing how quickly the original intent of something can be distorted and disfigured as to make it useless, or meaningless.

Ex. "Mohawk" haircut today.

Their enemies gave them that name. MOHAWK means "man-eater."

These indians from New York State called themselves "people of the flint" – "ka/ni/en/ke/ha/ka" In times of war they cut their hair like this. Also called the "roach" because they would put artificial roaches (and sometimes feathers) in their hair.

Ex. Christmas

Ex. The Constitution of the U.S. in the hands of historical reconstructionist.

**1st amendment - "Church/state - "freedom of religion has become
freedom from religion."**

2nd amendment- right to bear arms

SHARE: Can you think of others?

Those who claim to speak with authority on such matters must know the **original intent**, the **original hearers** and **how they would have reacted**, and the **original setting** BEFORE they try to apply it to the present day. **This is a key principle in Biblical interpretation**, but also any historical event that is held up as "prescriptive" to us. (i.e., principles to live by)

The Bible is unique, as a historical document, because not only is it “**prescriptive**,” but also claims to fully understand the human condition in the temporal and eternal dimensions and gives the solution to core problems affecting everything we do or say. It claims this with powerful authority and no apology

Galatians is a hard-hitting book that is committed to absolute truth!

READ Gal. 1:6-10 / 6: 17

No armchair theories here; but truth,, resisted by every **unredeemed** person, deep down in their heart!

“The truth must essentially be regarded as in conflict with the world; the world has never been so good, and will never become so good that the majority will desire the truth.” Soren Kierkegaard ca. 1850
Danish theologian

“Seek the truth, listen to the truth, teach the truth, love the truth, abide by the truth, and defend the truth unto death!”

John Hus July 1415 Burned at the stake by the
Catholic church.

**** Paganism and narcissism are easy to spot and dismiss, but religious falsehoods can mask themselves to cover sinful, fallen secret thoughts; unspoken thoughts like these :**

(1 and 2 show the main idea and 3-5 are variation on 1 and 2, the reason we show this is because it is crucial to understand the Galatian problem and our problems with the Gospel.)

1. Is God really that good? PP 1 (PP stands for "powerpoint.")
 ("Therefore, if He is not that good, can't He just grade on the curve?
 Lowest common denominator? If His standard is perfection then
 nobody will EVER reach it, give us a break! Lower the bar!"
 Remember rich young ruler? He was thinking along this line.)

2. Is man really that bad? PP 2
 ("I am as good as most people I know!" A "relative" standard to
 replace a standard of perfection,,yea that is what we need, that is what
 seems reasonable to me!"
 Remember rich young ruler saying "good teacher.?" He had no idea what
 absolute good looked like, nor who he was talking to!)

3. Are you sure there was no other way than Jesus dying on a cross to save us? PP 3
 ("That is a little drastic, seems to me. Given enough time we can
 change! Time and practice is all we need! Just give us a list of rules and we
 can do it!")

4. Is Christ really the only way to salvation? PP 4
 ("Sincerity has to count for something! There must be other, equally –
 as-good ways to obtain salvation."
 Neither sincerity nor intensity of faith can create truth! Try that approach
 with the law of physics and see what happens. Physics is no respecter of
 persons. God has spoken and He is no respecter of persons who want to
 make up their own rules. Lesson one: HE IS GOD AND YOU ARE NOT!)

5. What about my hard work to clean myself up and present to God a relatively good person? PP 5
 ("Being a good person should be enough!")

****GALATIANS will answer these and many other things for us; and do it unambiguously/ precisely / and masterfully!**

WHERE? : (PP 6 MAP)

Galatia is a region in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey).
Southern Galatia had 4 churches Paul had founded on his 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys, although he had been working in Antioch before these journeys (Acts 11:19-30).

The Galatians letter has 4 hard-hitting themes.

PP 7 / 8/ 9/ 10

(Look for these at the end of these notes)

*** Galatians was the central theme of the protestant reformation!
(14th through 17th century)
If not for these people you may not be hearing an undiluted Gospel!!

“ The epistle to the Galatians is my epistle; I have betrothed myself to it; it is my wife!”

Martin Luther 1517

TEXT: *****

V1. “an apostle” (general use) = “one sent with a special message”
Andronicus and Junias Rom. 16:7

(specifically) = (Acts 1) the original twelve
disciples(Matthias replaced Judas)

(might note that when James dies there is not need to replace him because there is no way to have **apostolic succession**. A unique class of men which cannot be reproduced today since you had to be an eye-witness to resurrection. Judas was replaced because he was an unbeliever.

Qualification: witness to the ministry of Jesus, and
resurrection. Called by Christ directly.

They have authority over the church to care for it.

N.T documents lets us enjoy the ministry of
apostleship today.

(specifically and later) = Paul, Barnabus, maybe
James; the Lord's
brother (Gal. 1:19)

(NOT James, son of Zebedee, or James , the less, these two already part of
original twelve)

* Paul saw the resurrected Christ I Cor. 15:3-10 PP 11

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scripture, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the scripture and that He appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than 500 brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God with me.”

Paul fits this foundation of apostles and prophets Eph. 2: 20 PP 12

“... having been build on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief corner stone,,,,,”

Paul demonstrated signs of apostle Heb. 2:3-4 PP 13

“... how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by **those** who heard,

God also testifying with **them**, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will."

Sign of Paul's apostleship; note similarity to Hebrews passage

II Cor. 12:12

PP14

"The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles."

The timing and conditions of Paul's calling as an apostle (i.e. not being one of the twelve) is **not as important** as the fact he was called by Christ. He had the same authority and power as the other apostles, and proved it by the effects of his ministry, and the support of other apostles.

Paul spends a good deal of time on this subject in Galatians because :

THE MESSAGE IS IN JEOPARDY IF THE COMMISSION AND CALLING OF PAUL AS AN APOSTLE ARE IN DOUBT!

Paul proves he is independence of the apostles (that he was not sent by them, but by Christ , **directly**) and he proves his equality with them as recognized **by them** when they got together. A telling defense of Paul by Peter in:

READ II Peter 3:15-16

Read Gal. 1:2-5

(v.4) "present evil age" (focus of today)

Share time: 1. “what does that mean?”

2. “in what way is Christ delivering you now?”

Acts 2:40

II Cor. 4:4

Eph. 4: 17-24

Have Kendra come up: ++++++

The full picture of being saved for eternity and saved now
Romans 5:20 - 6: 14

Book Of Galatians

Four Themes of Galatians

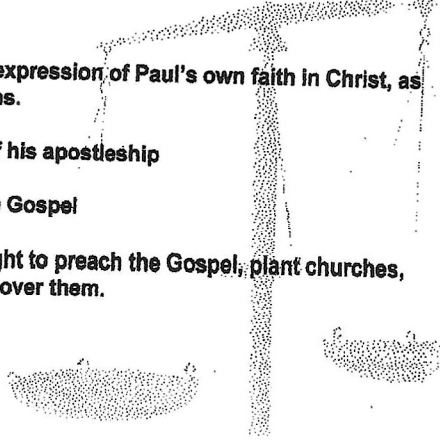
POWER POINT

7/8/9/10

CK, P. 4 of NOTES

① Paul's own defense:

- * An intimately personal expression of Paul's own faith in Christ, as he defends his positions.
- * A powerful defense of his apostleship
- * A defense of the true Gospel
- * A defense of his right to preach the Gospel, plant churches, and exercise care over them.



② The Gospel of Grace:

- + The central theme of Christianity is salvation by Grace alone.
- + How can the Galatians who began in Grace continue under Law?
- + The Law condemns; it cannot justify.

+ Ritual acts and good works offered as the basis for salvation destroys Grace.

+ No man can win acceptance with God on terms other than God's Grace given freely.

Anything less amounts to a denial of the completeness and finality of Christ.

③ Justification:

- + Faith on man's part is the only proper response to God's movement toward him in Grace (2:16/ 3:24)
- + "by Grace alone, by Faith alone" These are the irreducible and crucial elements of the Gospel.

④ The fruit of Grace and Faith:

- + The freedom of Grace and Faith is not an invitation to false security or careless standards of living. (5:1)

+ The Christian **begins** UNDER GRACE;

Continues UNDER GRACE;

and is **not** UNDER THE LAW.

The works of the flesh are (which cannot be bridled by the law) evident to all, **but the fruit of life-changing Grace gives the real power to overcome (5:22)**

- + "Walking in the Spirit" results in real freedom and the proper use of that freedom to serve others. (5:1, 13, 16, 25)