

Sunday, October 25, 2009—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 1:10-12

Galatians 1:10

- Before diving into the text of this verse we need to recall the context in which this verse appears. Paul has just finished rebuking the Galatians for departing from his gospel by adding human performance for justification. In the previous two verses Paul pronounced the curse of God upon those who would pervert the gospel of Christ.
- *“For do I now persuade men or God?”*
- One can almost sense a sarcastic tone in Paul’s verse in this verse. Essentially Paul is asking the Galatians “Am I trying to persuade God to remain in the truth?” No, he says, “I am trying to get you (Galatians) to remain in the truth.”
- *“or do I seek to please men?”*
- Paul uses this question to focus on the reality that there are two different motives that control the actions of men. You either seek to please men like the Judiazers or please God by standing for the truth with Paul.
- *“for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ”*
- Paul emphatically answers the question by stating that if you seek to please men you cannot be the servant of Christ.
 - I Thessalonians 2:4—Satan is the one who drives us to seek the favor of men. The Holy Spirit drives us to seek the favor of God.
 - James 4:4—if a believer is a man pleaser he or she displeases God.
- Unfortunately today, just like in Paul’s day, preaching the pure Gospel of the Grace of God is shunned by the religious system. You can make more friends by criticizing Paul’s gospel than you can by standing for it. Many preachers today have their fingers on the pulse of what the people want rather than on what they need.

Galatians 1:11

- *“But I certify you brethren”*
- Certify—means to attest authoritatively, confirm, to present in formal communication, to attest as being true and meeting a standard.
 - Ephesians 1:9, 3:3, 3:5, 6:19—make known, made known
- This verse begins Paul’s certification of his gospel and apostleship. He is now through this epistle, going to present in formal communication his credentials as an apostles and the veracity of his gospel.

- There are two clear points in verse 11:
 - Paul’s gospel was new and different from the gospel of the kingdom which the 12 preached.
 - Paul did not receive his gospel from any human agent.
- *“that the gospel which was preached of me”*
- Paul is referring to the specific gospel that was given to me to preach.
 - Galatians 2:2—notice that Paul preached his gospel among the gentiles.
 - Romans 16:12, II Timothy 2:8—my gospel refers to the fact that it was given to Paul and belonged to him.
 - I Corinthians 15:1-4—the gospel Paul preached had something to do with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the gospel by which all men can be saved today.
- John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and the 12 Apostles preached the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - Matthew 3:1-3—John was preaching repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
 - Mark 1:14
 - Matthew 4:17, 23—Jesus Christ begins to preach the same message as John the Baptist. Notice the phrase “From that time.” This marks the beginning of Christ preaching the gospel of the kingdom.
 - Matthew 10:5-7—Jesus instructs the 12 to preach the same message that he and John the Baptist had been preaching.
 - Matthew 16:21—once again notice the expression, “from that time.” In other words, this was the first time Jesus said anything to the Apostles about his impending death, burial, and resurrection.
 - Therefore I know that the 12 Apostles had been preaching a gospel for 6 chapters that had nothing to do with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.
- After Christ’s resurrection and ascension Peter and the 12 preach the gospel of the circumcision.
 - Galatians 2:7
 - Luke 24:45-46—Jesus explain to them the significance of the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Acts 2:29-31—Peter preaches the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to fulfill the Davidic Covenant and inherit the throne of David.
- Acts 13:38-39—this is the first recorded preaching of the gospel of the grace of God.
- *“is not after man”*—Paul clearly could not have received his gospel from any human source since no one preached it before Paul.
- That is to say, it did not originate from any humane source. No human being contributed anything to it. It was not something conjured up in the mind of man.

Galatians 1:12

- *“For I neither received it of man”*—in verse 11 Paul emphasized that his gospel did not originate with man. Here in verse 12 he emphasizes the fact that he did not receive it of a man.
- That is to say that no human being taught or communicated this gospel to Paul.
- *“neither was I taught it”*—it was not impressed upon his mind by through the process of teaching.
- In this phrase, Paul is dealing with the potential argument that his gospel could have been divine in its origin and passed on to Paul via the process of teaching.
- So Paul’s gospel did not originate in the mind of any human being, he did not receive it from any man, and no one taught it to him. All of this means that Paul was the first one to know this message.
- I Timothy 1:16—Paul says that he was the first one to receive this information. So then how did Paul receive the understanding of this new and different gospel?
- *“but by the revelation of Jesus Christ”*—the word “but” emphasizes the contrast to the human origin discussion at the beginning of the verse.
- The source of the content for Paul’s gospel was Jesus Christ himself. The gospel of the grace of God was made known unto Paul via special revelation from Jesus Christ.
- Paul did not merely receive information from Christ. Paul actually had Christ revealed to him. That is why he went blind in Acts 9.
- Acts 26:16—Christ appeared to Paul and told him that he would continue to do so.
- Acts 22:17-19—Paul literally talked with Christ face to face.
- Understand that when Paul saw and talked with the Lord Jesus Christ, he did not walk with Jesus in his humiliation on earth as the twelve had done, but he talked with Christ in his glory in heaven.