

The Servant's Authority

Galatians 1:10-24

The book of Galatians begins with a very congenial greeting followed with addressing the intended perversion of the Gospel of grace. Recently I was approached by a couple of ladies who sought to share their religious convictions. My simple question for them was, "If I would decide to follow in your teaching could you guarantee that I would be accepted by God"? They were emphatic that that was not possibly for them to do. This week I was sharing with a couple and she informed me the name of her church affiliation. I had but one question for her, "If I have but three minutes to live could you tell me how to get to heaven where I want to go very seriously?" She was not able to do so. In both cases, these were very sweet and polite ladies, but had been led astray by false religions. Paul is dealing with this very issue as the Jews are seeking to add the law to the simple gospel of grace and thereby hijack the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It did not take long for Satan to walk into the Garden of Eden to defile the heart of man. It did not take long for Satan to lead the clergy to hijack the church that we see in the book of Acts. It is not the gospel plus- it is the gospel without the distinctions man would add. May we fear as a plague anything that deletes or anything that is added to the Scriptures. Paul expressed that the curse of God would rest upon those who failed to take heed to the simplicity of the Gospel as preached by Paul. See Galatians 1:8, 9.

Paul was not a "Yes" man but "God's man". He was a convincing man because he was a convinced man. He experienced blessings on his ministry because he had experienced God's blessing on him. Paul had a ministry because it was revealed unto him by God, Gal.1:12 "For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." His testimony is well related in Acts chapter nine. Before his conversion to Jesus Christ, he was one of the folk he is now addressing. He had heard the message of salvation from Stephen in Acts chapter seven. He silenced the message of the gospel at that time by seeing to the death of Stephen. The heart of man continues to oppose the gospel. The Israelites killed their prophets. There still is not an apology for St Bartholomew's Massacre.

Since Jesus drew Paul to himself, we see a changed man, which his religion did not accomplish, but his relationship with Jesus did. Jesus was made known to him 1:11, 12; Paul knew of Jesus within him 1:13 -17 and now through him the message is shared with others. 1:18-24. Paul had exercised religion without Christ who is now his burning passion and remained such until he was martyred at Rome. Sincerity in religion and security in Christ are miles apart. His traditional following of religion made him a killer as recorded in John 16: 2 “They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.” As it was wrong for Peter to sit around the devil’s fire to warm himself so it is wrong for believers to sit beside worldly fires. Paul could now see God’s hand on him from his mother’s womb and being called by grace (V.15). In him was revealed the Son of God that he might preach Christ among the heathen (V.16).

This man was ordained of God while there are too many men ordained by men and organizations that have seriously deviated from the precious Word of Almighty God. Now if you would have but ten minutes to live, and you would then stand before God would you know on what basis you have the assurance of heaven? Read I John 5:11-13. It is obvious that you “may know”. Communicate with us for further clarification on this most important matter.

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