

Sermon Notes – October 6, 2019

Introducing Galatians

- ⇒ Galatians is a letter about the heart of the Gospel. Heaven & hell are at stake. Because of the significance of the topic, Paul is direct, fired up, passionate, confrontive, and cares little if people like him at the end of the day – as long as he is clear!
- ⇒ Why are we studying this book? The cultural ocean we swim in calls for compromise, _____, and doctrinal vagueness. Inclusiveness is fine in many areas, but compromise on the Gospel is not one of those areas.
- ⇒ Last week with Pastor Tyler we saw that the Christian Gospel is not manmade; it stands apart from manmade, works-oriented religions. The Gospel is _____ God and _____ God.

Today's Text: Galatians 2:1-10

In today's text the accusation in 1:6 and the argument that began in 1:10 continue. Paul can't believe that these young followers of Jesus have been so quick to embrace "another gospel" that includes human works. Paul's personal story is a vital part of his defense as he describes his interaction with the other Apostles.

A Gospel Showdown: What is the Message? (1-2)

- ⇒ Paul travels to Jerusalem with Barnabas (remember him?) and non-Jewish Titus. This is likely the event in **Acts 15**.
- ⇒ Like other church councils, this is a vital moment in early church history: What is the Gospel that we preach? Further, what is the relation of the Gospel with the _____? Must a person become Jewish to be saved?
- ⇒ What about OT feasts, Sabbath or _____, Kosher food, & circumcision, to name a few examples? Cf. 4:10; 5:2; 6:12; also, Colossians 2:16-17.
- ⇒ Key Issue: There is a HUGE difference between *doing something* by _____ – like attending a Seder – and telling people that doing so is _____ for salvation.
- ⇒ To be a "good Christian," a person must _____. Be careful how you answer this! The Gospel is at stake.

The Outcome? Victory for the Gospel (3-5)

- ⇒ "The truth of the Gospel" is preserved! Praise God for that!
- ⇒ No culture "owns" the Gospel! That includes ours, along with all of our favorite cultural ways of doing church. The Gospel is for _____!

The Backstory & Conclusion (6-10)

- ⇒ Paul shows respect for the other Apostles in Jerusalem, but he does not place himself "under" them. He views his Apostolic _____ as equal to theirs.
- ⇒ He says in v. 6 – they "added nothing to me." That is, the Apostles in Jerusalem see that Paul has the same Gospel that they do, and they give to Paul & Barnabas "the right hand of fellowship." They are one!
- ⇒ All agree that caring for the poor among them is a key evidence of a living faith. See 6:10.

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ Think it through: Jesus doesn't "get rid of" or "abolish" OT ceremonial laws; rather, He fulfills them! Christ makes us clean! When we trust Christ as our Savior, we enter true Sabbath rest. Let's read the Bible correctly!
- ⇒ Let's be clear: It is not wrong to have personal or cultural preferences. In every country around the world where the Gospel goes, it includes cultural elements – local food, different clothing, local language or dialect, music, and so much more. But those elements are NOT the Gospel.
- ⇒ No one needs to become Jewish – or American! – to be a follower of Jesus.
- ⇒ The purity of the Gospel must STILL be guarded! We must avoid the trap of Legalism ("In addition to trusting Christ, you must do the following") and the equally dangerous trap called License ("Because you've trusted Jesus, you can do anything").

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

It seems that fall came rather suddenly this year! Are you ready for fall? And what about the holiday season right around the corner...have you noticed that we're only about 60 days away from full-on holiday mode? Turkey anyone? How's everyone feeling about that?

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the text (Galatians 2:1-10) and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was this week's sermon about?
2. In what areas do you think churches are most tempted to "add" something to the Gospel? And what about you? Honestly now, what do YOU think that "all good Christians" should do that isn't commanded in the Bible?
3. Acts 15 is a chapter full of conflict. Take a look at that text again, especially verses 2, 7, and even 39-40. Is the conflict described here necessarily sinful? And in each case, what is the ultimate outcome?
4. The key outcome from Acts 15 & Galatians 2 is a unified Gospel for the early church, essentially summarized in Ephesians 2:8-9 – "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Why is a unified Gospel so essential for the fledgling church – and why is it still important today?

5. Galatians 2:7-8 describes two spheres of Gospel impact: Peter has a largely Jewish-focused ministry, and Paul focuses more on Gentiles. On a practical level, what are the good things about that kind of specialization, and what are the potential dangers?
6. In today's text we meet Titus, a Gentile believer, who is an important co-worker & friend of the Apostle Paul. Read Paul's words to his friend in Titus 3:4-11. What hints do you see in this paragraph that might reflect the conflict cited in Galatians 2?

Taking It Further & Taking It Home

7. READ I John 3:17 & James 2:15-16. Both John & James address the importance of helping Christian brothers & sisters with practical needs. Both of these texts seem to describe personal action, rather than a church program. How might that work for you? Do you do this?

Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday – October 13, 2019

"The Gospel Confronts Racial & Cultural Divisions"

(Galatians 2:11-21)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: ▪ imprecision ▪ FROM ▪ FOR ▪ OT Law ▪ Lord's Day ▪ personal choice ▪ required ▪ _____ ▪ the Nations ▪ authority