

"Paul's Defense of His Apostleship"**Galatians 1-2****Part 2**

Introduction: In our last study we started into the letter which Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia. Let us keep in mind that this letter is written to new believers who were hungry for the Truth. Satan took advantage of their hunger and he brought the Pharisees in with a false teaching. These Pharisees were teaching these believers that after they were saved, they must strive to keep the Law in order to grow in their new life in Christ. They warned the believers at these churches that if they came away from the Law there would be nothing to keep their depravity reigned in and they would go off into a life of licentiousness. In other words, they were teaching these new believers that in order to live a life of holiness they had to strive to keep the Law. They also attacked Paul's Apostleship claiming that he was not a true Apostle because he was not one of the originals who walked with Jesus on the earth.

Paul therefore wrote this letter to refute this teaching. In this letter Paul will explain that holiness and power over sin does not come by keeping the Law. It comes through the same means that salvation comes. When we were saved, we placed our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and the mighty power of God performed a miracle in our lives by causing us to be born again. This was all by the GRACE of God. Holiness is achieved in the very same way. As we walk by faith in the promises of God it is the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit that gives us victory over sin. It is the GRACE of God that allows us to grow through faith. God did not save us and then leave us to ourselves to struggle with sin in our lives. He has given us all we need to overcome the corruption in this world and this power is by GRACE.

Titus 2:11-12

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

In chapter 1 we looked at 2 points.

1. The Source of Paul's Apostleship - Galatians 1:1-2
2. The Purpose of the Gospel - Galatians 1:3-5

Now as we move on, we shall see several points in Galatians 1:6-10.

➤ The Apostasy

Allow me to start by stating what apostasy is. It is a departure from the Truth. It is the act of walking away from a religious Truth.

Notice Galatians 1:6

Paul marveled or was amazed that these believers had moved away from the Truth of the Gospel that he had delivered to them. This was apostasy. If we notice the verse closely, we can see that they had moved away from GRACE which was what they needed for a life of holiness. They had accepted the teaching of the Pharisees and were agreeing to come under the Law. Paul is amazed that it has happened so quickly.

Application:

It is very important to know that apostasy can happen to any one of us if we are not careful and it can happen very quickly. Let us notice some examples.

1 Kings 11:1-6

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites:

² *Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.*

³ *And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.*

⁴ *For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

⁶ And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Here we see that it happened to Solomon.

Exodus 32:1-8

And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

² And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

³ And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

⁴ And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

⁵ And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.

⁶ And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

⁷ And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

⁸ **They have turned aside quickly** out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Getting back to the believers at Galatia, they had been taught by Paul. They had no doubt witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit through him and they still turned away from the Truth very quickly. It does not matter who the person is, the potential is still there to become and apostate. Who would ever have thought that Aaron, who witnessed the Ten

Plagues in Egypt and was the high priest of the nation, would turn to worship a golden calf? Then there was Solomon whom God spoke to and he turned away.

Notice Galatians 1:6-7

Notice that Paul speaks of "another gospel." This means it was another of a different kind which was not a gospel at all. We need to notice that in verse 7 Paul makes it clear that when someone teaches works, the Law, or a set of rules as a means of sanctification they are guilty of perverting/distorting the Gospel. This is exactly what the Devil wants to do. He desires to pervert/distort the Gospel. When this happens people cannot be saved and believers cannot glorify the Lord by growing in grace.

➤ **The Test**

Notice Galatians 1:8

Here in this verse Paul tells us how to know if something is true. The test for Truth is, "Does it line up with the Word of God?" Paul tells these believers that if anyone was to come in a preach a gospel that is different than the Gospel that had been delivered to them then it was not to be accepted. It does not matter who says it and it does not matter how good it sounds. If it is not in PERFECT agreement with the Bible it is not to be accepted. God's Word is the absolute Truth and it never changes.

Hebrews 6:17-19

¹⁷ Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

¹⁹ Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

The two immutable/unchanging things are His Word and His Promises. Getting back to Galatians, Paul, being a Jew would have had Deuteronomy in mind.

Deuteronomy 13:1-9

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

³ Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴ Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

⁵ And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

⁶ If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;

⁷ Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth;

⁸ Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:

⁹ But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.

Notice Galatians 1:8 again.

I want you to notice that he uses the word "WE" which tells us even the Apostles had the potential of getting caught up in false teaching. It is the next word that I want you to see. He warns against even the preaching of an angel. What is he talking about here? Let us keep in mind that Satan is an angel.

Ezekiel 28:13-15

¹³ Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

¹⁴ Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁵ Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Satan can present himself as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:14

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

If we put a few thoughts together we can better understand what Paul is saying. There have been many people who have claimed to have died and went to heaven or hell and then they came back. Most have authored books about it. In many of those experiences people talk about being drawn to the light. Keep in mind Satan can present himself as an angel of light. Then these people come back with a message that is contrary to the Bible. Where do you think they got their message? From Satan himself! Paul is telling these believers that if someone brings a message that is different than what has been taught no matter who brings it, they were to reject it. Satan wants to pervert the Gospel because it is the power of God unto salvation.

Keep in mind that Satan has the power to bring about miracles to confuse people.

Exodus 7:9-11

⁹ When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

¹¹ Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

Notice Galatians 1:9

Those who would proclaim another gospel we called to be accursed. This is a condemnation to hell. This is how serious this matter is when someone tampers with the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news that we are saved and sanctified by GRACE through faith plus nothing.

Conclusion:

Notice Galatians 1:10

Here in this verse Paul is defending his preaching of grace. You see, the Pharisees were saying that Paul had made it too easy when he taught that a sinner is saved and sanctified by grace through faith. They accused him of making it simple so as to win the favor of people. They were saying that he was a people pleaser. Paul corrects them here and he explains that he is out to please men but instead he tells them that he is a servant/slave of Jesus Christ. He is a slave of the Lord and he is doing what his Master has commissioned him to do.