

1. Continue our look at Galatians 5

- A. We've see that Christ has died to set us free – therefore we should live as free men and women
 - 1). Enjoying our Christianity because of what Christ has done – enjoying our relationship with Him
- B. We've seen to refuse to guard that freedom has a great cost – we allow legalism in
 - 1). We saw the cost of legalism is great – our Christianity that was meant to be joy filled- satisfying
Becomes a crushing burden – we lose our joy and our fellowship with Christ

Transition: So Paul has confronted the Galatians – now he turns to those promoting this heresy

Ga 5:7–12 (ESV) You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁽⁸⁾ This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁽⁹⁾ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ⁽¹⁰⁾ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ⁽¹¹⁾ But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ⁽¹²⁾ I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

Outline

- A. False teachers hinder obedience to the truth
 - B. False teachers will be judged
 - C. False teachers persecute true teachers
 - D. The Apostles righteous anger
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I. FALSE TEACHERS HINDER OBEDIENCE TO THE TRUTH

Ga 5:7 (ESV) You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

1. They started great – responding to Paul's teachings – running beautifully

- A. Filled with joy - devoted to Christ – serving zealously for His glory
- B. But along came these false teachers who confused them about how a person approaches God
 - 1). They stopped trusting in what Christ had done for them
And started relying on what they were doing for God

Point: As always – embracing false doctrine resulted in spiritual destruction

2. There is a warning here to all of us

- A. It is possible to run well for a time but get swept off our feet by lies
 - 1). If it happened to these Galatians who sat under Paul's teaching! It can happen to us
- B. We live in a day where so many prominent teachers are heretics – TV is filled with them
 - 1). And they are skilled at crafting what we see to make it look genuine and enticing
- C. You see their large ministries – the supposed miracles - think how can that not be from God!
 - 1). And you don't investigate what they are teaching! Whether it squares with the Scriptures

Transition: V. 8 warns us not every teaching comes from God

Ga 5:8 (ESV) This persuasion is not from him who calls you.

1. Shows us we need to listen with discernment

- A. We cannot blindly accept everything a man says – no matter what we think we see
 - 1). Said before – end times will be filled with powerful lies backed by signs and wonders
 - 2). Many are going to be deceived – moved away from Christ

Thought: It is not unloving to question a person – asking is what they teach Biblical

- A. Jesus commends the Ephesians for their ability to discern if a man was from God or not

Re 2:2 (ESV) “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how *you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.*

- 1). These false Apostles were clever – knew all right words to say – how to act
 - a). Ephesians looked deeper – testing them with Scripture - is their teaching doctrinal
 - b). Those teaching heresy were not allowed to poison the church
- B. Scripture commends the Bereans for doing the same thing – checking out what Paul said
Ac 17:11 (ESV) Now these Jews (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, *examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

Thought: So the Ephesians were commended for their ability to discern error and reject it
 The Galatians are rebuked for embracing error so readily

- A. And by following their lies they were no longer running well – walking away from Christ

Transition: Now Paul warns us about heresy – how it spreads when it is allowed

- A. Here is the scriptural answer to those who take heresy lightly
 Who may say about a teacher “I know he’s teaching some heresy but he says a lot of good things too”
 - 1). I know he’s off in areas but he seems to be really loving. Really nice
- B. Look at what Paul says in v. 9 – remember context is false teachers and their heresies

Ga 5:9 (ESV) A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

1. A little heresy can end up affecting everything – like yeast it permeates

- A. Notice the destructive power of error – doesn’t take much “just a little” will corrupt the whole
 - 1). Just a little can end up working through a whole church – hurting so many people
- B. I received an email from a woman who started attending a church teaching heresy
 - 1). Sounded good at first – got excited – spread it to whole family
 Her brothers, sisters, mom and dad got involved
 - 2). Eventually she saw the heresy and left but the family remains – she’s heartbroken
 - a). That leaven of heresy spread until it permeated her whole family

Thought: I’m glad she left. To continue with a ministry that teaches heresy is to support it

2. Listen to how Jude describes the dangers of false teachers

Jude 1:12 (NASB) These men are those who are *hidden reefs* in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

- A. They are in it for themselves – caring only for themselves
- B. They are clouds without water – empty – nothing to offer
- C. The danger – “Who are hidden reefs” -
 - 1). Picture of a ship sailing along – everything is fine – “Wham”
 Hit a reef sitting right under the water – the ship is destroyed
 - 2). How many lives have been destroyed by these hidden reefs – this is serious stuff

Question: Why are so many deceived by these false teachers?

- A. The Benny Hinns, Kenneth Copelands, Fred price’s, Creflo Dollars – listen to a sampling

Benny Hinn

- "Adam was a super-being when God created him. ...The Scriptures declare clearly that he had dominion over the fowls of the air...which means he used to fly. ...Adam not only flew, he flew to space. With one thought he would be on the moon"
- *Jesus at His death became one with Satan.*

Kenneth Copeland

- Jesus existed only as an image in the heart of God, until such time as the prophets of the Old Testament could positively confess Jesus into existence through their constant prophecies.
- *Jesus took on the nature of Satan when He was on the cross.*
- God traveled to earth in a space ship called light.
- Jesus has a beginning and an end.
- *The biggest failure in the whole Bible is God.*

Paul Crouch

- Christians are little gods.
 - God draws no distinction between Himself and us.
 - *God opens up the union of the very godhead (Trinity), and brings us into it.*
- B. These heretics come clothed in a pleasing package – why we must listen to what they say - doctrine
- 2 Cor 11:13-15 (NIV)** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder, for *Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (15) It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.*
- 1). They are very charismatic – gifted speakers – million dollar smiles
Say Jesus in pious tones – they know how to use the media to deceive
 - 2). And they are destroying multitudes of people
 - a). Teaching doctrines of demons that won't save but only deceive those who hear them
Iain H. Murray: Error, preached as truth, has contributed to the delusion of multitudes who are lost.

Transition: Paul in v. 10 Paul speaks of the end of these men

- A. But first he says something comforting for the Galatians

II. FALSE TEACHERS WILL BE JUDGED

I love this: Ga 5:10 (ESV) I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view...

1. Paul had confidence the Galatians would get it right in the end

- A. But notice why? His *confidence was in the Lord* – God would keep them
Php 1:6 (ESV) And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- B. I believe the true Christian will be protected by God – led away from these heretics
- 1). They will hear what God is saying and eventually respond
Jn 10:27 (ESV) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
 - a). God has given His sheep a desire to hear Him – an ability to hear Him
And a willingness to follow Him
 - b). Paul trusts God to do that for the true believers in Galatia
- C. **Problem:** There may be lots of unnecessary pain while that is happening
- 1). These heretics chew up and spit out God's sheep – they are not left unscarred
 - 2). The doctrine of demons they teach are inspired by the devourer so they destroy
 - a). Ex. Lady with cancer at PHC – not enough faith OR sin in her life
 - b). For some it takes years to recover from a church teaching heresy
 - c). But our hope – if they are God's He will speak to them – deliver them

Transition: So Paul's hope was that God would deal with the true believer and turn them around

- A. He was also confident that God would deal with these false teachers

The Judgment of the False Teachers

Ga 5:10 (ESV) I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, *and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is.*

1. The false teacher will stand before God and bear the penalty

A. He will be accountable for every soul he deceived

1). False teachers have a horrifying end

Ga 1:8–9 (ESV) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, *let him be accursed.* ⁽⁹⁾ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, *let him be accursed.*

Geoffrey B. Wilson: Anyone who burdens the church with false teaching shall not escape being burdened with a crushing judgement.

B. This is why every teacher must be concerned with knowing theology – to put in the to be accurate

Thought: What solemn words to any who handle God’s Word’s carelessly

A. Those who are more concerned with the size of their church rather than the soundness of their words

1). Listen – heresy today is a big seller – it can fill a church

a). Just tell them every Sunday that God wants to fulfill their dreams

b). Just give them little techniques that force God to do their will

Instead of telling them that the Christian is one who bows to God’s will – He is Lord

2). But people flock to these heretics and will follow them right into hell

2. The point: It is foolish to follow somebody who is heading into divine judgment

A. Do you think you can be blessed by being influenced by those God is going to judge?

Transition: False teachers hinder obedience to the truth – False teachers will be judged

III. FALSE TEACHERS PERSECUTE TRUE TEACHERS

Ga 5:11 (ESV) But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

1. The Judaizers were apparently lying about Paul to strengthen their own position

A. Should be no surprise – if they are willing to lie about God’s Word – why not everything else?

B. The devil wants to destroy those who stand for truth – He will use others to do so

Thought: It seems the false teachers were using a situation where Paul had Timothy circumcised

Ac 16:3 (ESV) Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and *he took him and circumcised him* because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

A. They took this and twisted it to their own benefit

“See even Paul believes you must be circumcised to be saved. He preaches circumcision.”

2. Why did Paul want Timothy to be circumcised? Important to understand

A. It wasn’t to be saved – it was to be more accepted by the unbelieving Jew

B. It was to open doors to proclaim the truth of salvation to them

To proclaim the truth that salvation is through faith in Christ alone plus nothing else

Point: Paul simply wanted to remove any hindrance to proclaiming the Gospel

Way he lived his life: 1 Cor 9:19-23 (NIV) Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. (20) To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. (21) To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. (22) To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. *I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. (23) I do all this for the sake of the gospel...*

A. Paul did whatever was necessary to remove hindrances and open doors for the gospel

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- 1). So Paul had Timothy live this out – become all things to all men for the sake of the Gospel
 - a). Not to be saved – to open doors – to proclaim the message that others will be saved
 - B. There is a huge difference in forcing circumcision on Gentiles as a means of salvation
And suggesting circumcision to open doors to proclaim the gospel of faith in Christ
 - 1). In Galatians he fought against circumcision as a means of salvation
- 3. Paul’s response to this lie is brilliant (He is so logical)**
- Ga 5:11 (ESV)** But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.
- “If I’m still preaching circumcision like they are – don’t you think I’d be accepted into their inner circle?”
- A. IOW if I’m on the same team as they are – why do they keep hitting me?
 - B. Plus if I’m teaching the necessity of circumcision – I can’t also be preaching the necessity of the cross
So that which offends them – the cross – has been removed!
- Transition:** Let’s look at the offense of the cross
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The Offense of the Cross (two reasons)

- A. The cross offended the Jews because they couldn’t imagine their Messiah on it

Ga 3:13 (ESV) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law *by becoming a curse for us*—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

 - 1). Curse = Speaking of the rejection by God because of the guilt of sin
 - 2). In their thinking “How could the holy Messiah die on a cross – under the curse of God?”
 - a). This was a tremendous obstacle to the Jew
1 Co 1:23 (ESV) but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews...
 - B. Second: The cross offended the Jews because it abolished the law
 - 1). For centuries they’d been staking everything on the law
 - a). Now Paul comes along and says the law cannot save you. It will never make a man right with God. Salvation comes by faith in Christ’s work on the cross not in your work
 - 2). The cross obliterated everything they’d been putting their spiritual hopes on – a game changer!
 - a). It told these self-righteous Jews – all your effort – all your works have gotten you nowhere
 - 1a). That strikes at the heart of pride – “I’ve earned a right standing with God!”
- Thought:** Paul is making the distinction here – you can’t be preaching circumcision and the cross too!
- A. Circumcision points to a system based on man’s work for God
The cross points to a system that is based on God’s work for man
 - 1). The necessity of the cross utterly destroys the religion of human achievement
 - B. The cross tells us God judges sin – won’t overlook one – even when another’s is placed on His Son
 - 1). It also tells us we can do nothing in our own strength to change our guilty state
 - a). If we could earn salvation Jesus would have never gone to the cross!
 - C. It tells us the way to be right with God is to humble ourselves – admit we’re wrong and need help
 - 1). In our pull yourselves up by your own bootstraps society - that grates at a man’s pride
- Summary:** Paul says: “If I were preaching circumcision like they say I am, then I’d be on their team. They wouldn’t be coming at me like they are. AND if I was preaching circumcision I couldn’t be preaching the cross therefore there is no offense for them to be upset about.”
- A. Reason why they persecute me is obvious – I am preaching the opposite of what they preach
 - 1). I AM preaching the necessity of resting in our Saviors work on the cross
And I am preaching against the necessity of works to be saved – including circumcision
- Transition:** Paul closes this section with some very radical words – he is upset
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IV. THE APOSTLE'S RIGHTEOUS ANGER

Ga 5:12 (ESV) I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

Gal 5:12 (NLT) I only wish that those troublemakers who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves.

1. Translators soften this with “mutilate” – Paul is saying “castrate”

- A. One of the pagan god's of that day was "Cybele" - the home of that cult was in Galatia
 - 1). The Priest and worshippers would castrate themselves as a sign of devotion to this god
- B. Paul is suggesting that these false teachers quit playing around with just circumcision
 - 1). They should go all the way - castrate themselves - and become full-fledged pagans

Point: If you add works to faith in Christ you are left with nothing but paganism!

- A. You can only have two types of religion: divine grace or human achievement
 - 1). If you're going to go for human achievement then really go for it - don't mess about!

Transition: Paul is angry over heresy that hurts God's people – rightfully so

- A. Paul is at war – fighting for the truth – He is doing what the church has been called to do

2. It is the churches job to vigilantly guard the truth

Paul tells Pastor Timothy: 2 Tim 1:13-14 (NLT) Hold on to the pattern of right teaching you learned from me. And remember to live in the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. (14) With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, *carefully guard what has been entrusted to you.*

- A. What had been entrusted? The truth – the Gospel

Listen to his words to Pastor Timothy: 1 Tim 1:3-5 (NIV) As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may *command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer* (4) nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work-- which is by faith. (5) *The goal of this command is love...*

- A. We use love as an excuse not to confront error – Paul used it as the reason to confront
 - 1). Because heresy destroys God's people – the loving thing is to protect them
 - 2). And Paul wasn't afraid to name names when it came to heresy

But he says he's from God who am I to question that? I don't want to judge them

- A. You must judge – you must evaluate what they are saying! Scripture tells you too!

1 Jn 4:1 (ESV) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but *test the spirits* to see whether they are from God, *for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

 - 1). You must judge – evaluate what they are saying! Scripture commends that!
- B. It's that kind of wishy-washy – mamby-pamby thinking that has allowed these false teachers to go worldwide and deceive multitudes
 - 1). These men who say Jesus became one with Satan on the cross
 - 2). Benny Hinn teaching the godhead is not just a trinity there are 9 of them
 - 3). Paul Crouch teaching all of us are little gods – God opens up space in the trinity and brings us in
 - 4). Kenneth Copeland

God is very much like you and me ... having a body, complete with eyes, and eyelids, ears, nostrils, a mouth, hands and fingers, and feet.

The Bible says [God] measured out the heavens with a nine-inch span (**Where does it say that? And how can you span the heavens with a 9 inch span!**). Well...my span is eight and three-quarter inches long. So God's span is a quarter of an inch longer than mine. So you see...God...stands somewhere around 6'2", 6'3", weighs somewhere in the neighbourhood of a couple hundred pounds, little better. (**That is insanity**)

Point: What do you think Paul would say about these ministries teaching the things they do?

- A. Bethel and Bill Johnson in Northern California spewing out the poison they do

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- 1). Bill Johnson has co-authored a book endorsed by Bethel – here is how it is advertised “Exploring the mysteries of God in sound, light, vibrations, frequencies, energy, and quantum physics.”
 - 2). Chapter headings include: “Vibrating in Harmony with God”, ‘Good Vibrations’, ‘Quantum Mysticism’ and “The God Vibration”
 - 3). Some of the sub-headings are interesting “Dolphins and Healing Energy,” ‘The Power of Color’, “Human Body Frequencies,”
 - 4). With all this talk of “vibrations” no wonder Bill Johnson’s wife Beni wrote in her blog: about using a 528 HZ tuning fork as a prophetic act. Someone told me that this tuning fork is called the tuning fork of LOVE... the sound of this fork brings healing.”
 - a). Crystals and tuning forks are used in NEW AGE therapy NOT Christianity
- B.** This mindless mysticism has no Biblical warrant but it is sweeping the church
- 1). Bethel is influencing churches all over the world – “The Bethelization of churches”
 - 2). Supposedly this is being backed up by miracles – a sign of the end times
 - 3). This is embraced because we don’t think Biblically
- John Trapp:** Heresy is the leprosy of the head.
- Point:** Paul loved the Gospel too much to allow it to be polluted and perverted
- A.** Paul loved the Galatians too much to allow them to be diverted without saying anything “Well I have to be loving and tolerant” – not in this case – not when it is destroying sheep
- 1). How insane to allow ravenous wolves rip them apart in the name of love
 - 2). Sometimes you must speak up to warn others – to protect them
- B.** Brothers and sisters you must think! In these days you must know your Bible!
- 1). I’ve spent time researching the false teachings invading the church
They are powerful – they are sweeping many into deception – backed by signs and wonders
 - a). ***Welcome to the end times***
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CONCLUSION

1. Truths about false teachers

- A.** Be careful brothers and sisters there are many out there today
- 1). They hinder God's people from following God and obeying the truth
 - 2). They are contaminating the church with their teaching that like leaven is penetrating
 - 3). They twist the truth to promote their own ways - persecuting the true teachers
 - 4). They will be judged by God
 - 5). We should not tolerate them in the name of love and tolerance - Paul didn't
 - a). Listening to them – even supporting them – sending in money
- B.** They are destroyers - I don’t care how big their ministry is or how gentle, loving they sound

2. You must be thinkers – you must test what they say – you must know your Bible

- A.** Again I recommend coming to Wednesday night when it morphs into our Bible School
- 1). Think about who you can invite – hopefully it will grow so we can have two classes going