

Galatians Handout Week Six

Review:

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Implication

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that *not of yourselves*, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2 Tim. 1:8b-9 join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to *His own purpose and grace* which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

What about after we are saved?

Not b/c of our goodness or good works but unto goodness and good works.

Dallas Willard Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning.

Who is subject to the curse of spreading a false gospel?

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2 Cor. 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

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Creeds:

2 Timothy 1:13 Retain the *standard* of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Jesus Christ.

Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound (uncorrupted) doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Early Creeds

Deut. 6:4 Hear O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD is one.

Matt. 16:16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

1 Tim. 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

1 Cor. 8:6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1 Tim. 3:16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

1 John 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God.

Accursed/anathema. Devoted to destruction

Mk. 9:42 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.

Paul's story: Acts. 8:1-3, Acts 9:1-16, 19-27, Acts 22:3-, Acts 26:4-20, 1 Cor. 15:8, 2 Cor. 11:22-33, 2 Cor. 12:7-, Phil. 3:4-, 1 Tim. 1:12-16.

Why the early pushback?

-It's a fallen world

Jn. 15:18 If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first

-Been there, done that.

-You can please some of the people some of the time, but...

10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were *still* trying to please men, I would not be a slave of Christ.

Easy believeism?

The "some men" we're trying to infect them with Groucho Marx syndrome.

Mat. 23:5 Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

Acts 26:4 I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee.

Phil. 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

What is Paul's new title?

Mat. 6:24 No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other....

Who does Paul say he serves? Who do you serve? Why should we believe you?

Heart checks

- Is there ever a moment when you give human approval a power over your life that only God should have?

- Are you ever afraid to share with others your struggles with your Christian walk b/c you are afraid of what people will think?

If Paul isn't man-pleasing, how are we to understand this then?

1 Cor. 9:19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

Is Paul a faker, a poser, a liar? Is he using trickery, but for a good cause? Is this a case of, the ends justify the means??

Where did Paul get his ideas?

Mat. 9: Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.

How sold out to the gospel was Paul?

Phil. 1:12-18 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, *thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment*. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice.

Mk. 9:38 John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to prevent him because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not hinder him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is for us. For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.

1Thess 2:4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.

Mat. 3:16-17 At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

**11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.
12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.**

The claims...

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Apokalupsis

Rev. 1:17 When I saw Him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

13 For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it (lay waste to it);

Acts. 9:1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out *murderous* threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as *prisoners* to Jerusalem.

Acts 26:9 I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to *oppose the name of Jesus* of Nazareth. And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were *put to death*, I cast my vote against them. Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to *force them to blaspheme*. I was so obsessed with *persecuting them* that I even *hunted them down* in foreign cities.

Persecute the church of God: ekklesia:

14 and I was *advancing* in Judaism *beyond* many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. 15 But when God...

Paul was *not* seeking God.

Acts 26:14 I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' " 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied.

15 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased...

Rom. 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. And those he predestined, he also called....

Why?

Was God begrudgingly admitting Paul into the family? What does the verse say?

Lk. 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...

In me?

2 Cor. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Col. 1:25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past ages and generations, but has now been manifested* to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Paul's calling is from God, but so is his commission. So it is for us.

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God *prepared beforehand* that we should *walk in them*.

But Paul would be humbled mightily to be used mightily. So it is with us.

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves....

Discussion

If God orchestrated and used Paul's training in the OT and his upbringing in a multi-cultural setting to further his calling (and He did), can we also say that about Paul's vicious, cruel period of persecution?

Do you think God had a hand in the difficult parts of your past? If no, what are the bigger implications of your answer? If yes, how is that hard for you to think about?

How does this verse play into your answer?

Gen. 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.