

Galatians Handout Week Seven

Review:

The criticism-

Paul's defense- The gospel I preach
The gospel I preach

How do we determine truth and authority

Ps. 119:89 LORD, your word is settled in heaven forever.

Ps. 119:160 All of your words are truth. Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

Luke 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled."

John 2:22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he said this, and they believed the Scripture, and the word *which Jesus had said*.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when you *received* from us *the word of the message of God*, you accepted it not as the word of men, but, as *it is in truth, the word of God*, which also works in you who believe.

What's the problem?

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What else vies for our allegiance in determining truth and authority?

--Tradition/the church.

--Reason/intellect/data.

--Feelings/emotions/our subjective experience.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

This is super subjective. I'm not entirely sure what does this even means, but it's true and its personal. But it comes after 7 chapters of deep doctrinal truth. Listen to some more.

Mat. 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Mat. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

Paul's third point. The gospel I preach...

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. 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; 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, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. 18 Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.) 21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; 23 but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy." 24 And they were glorifying God because of me.

Facts supporting Paul's claim

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*Caution/Explanation for the assumed discrepancy

Acts 9:8 they brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank...

918 And immediately something like fish scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; 19 and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God..." 22 Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

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2 Cor. 11:32-33

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- *The faith*

So, who discipled Paul?

Acts 22:12 A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him. And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous

One and to *hear an utterance from His mouth*. For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have *seen and heard*. Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

Big take-aways

- What we believe comes from
- The power of grace
- And they were glorifying God

The next hurdle.

Paul has decisively proven his gospel came independent of the apostles. Now he has to prove _____

Gal. 2:1 Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. 2 It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles....

His companions:

2b and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, lest somehow I should be running or had run in vain.

Paul is not concerned about the root but the _____

Submitted-

Private?

3 But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. 4 But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. 5 But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain (endure) with you.

How does Paul label these guys?

Why is circumcision a big deal?

Does it still matter? Yes, but...

Circumcision represents a

Our new understanding of circumcision.

Deut. 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart and be no longer stubborn.

Col. 2:11 In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

Discussion

1. People praised God because of the transformation in Paul's life. Share a story of someone else's miraculous transformation you have observed?
2. In all of the churches you have attended, do you remember having to follow any stated *or implied* rules about the Christian faith that are not based in scripture?
Example: Women have to wear skirts to church. Christian kids don't do Halloween.
3. Do you have any personal rules that you follow that aren't necessarily stated in scripture but you feel convicted to follow. Why?