



Lesson 33 – Apostasy in Galatia

Based on The Epistle to the Galatians

During his 3rd Missionary Journey, while tarrying at Corinth, Paul had cause for serious apprehension concerning some of the churches already established. Through the influence of false teachers who had arisen among the believers in Jerusalem, division, heresy, and sensualism were rapidly gaining ground among the believers in Galatia. These false teachers were mingling Jewish traditions with the truths of the gospel. Ignoring the decision of the general council at Jerusalem, they urged upon the Gentile converts the observance of the ceremonial law.

1) How did Paul greet the Galatian Church?

Galatians 1:3-4 Grace be to you and _____ from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present _____ world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Paul was cut to the heart, and his soul was stirred by this open apostasy on the part of those to whom he had faithfully taught the principles of the gospel. He immediately wrote to the deluded believers, exposing the false theories that they had accepted and with great severity rebuking those who were departing from the faith.

2) What did he address almost immediately?

Galatians 1:6-8 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another _____: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be _____.

Paul's teachings had been in harmony with the Scriptures, and the Holy Spirit had witnessed to his labors; therefore, he warned his brethren not to listen to anything that contradicted the truths he had taught them.

3) What bold questions did he ask?

Galatians 3:1-2 O foolish Galatians, who hath _____ you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the _____ of the law, or by the _____ of faith?

Galatians 3:3-4 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the _____, are ye now made perfect by the _____? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

The apostle bade the Galatian believers consider carefully their first experience in the Christian life. The Galatians had wandered back into a religion of works.

4) Where did Paul get his doctrines from?

Galatians 1:10-12 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to _____ men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the _____ of Jesus Christ.



- 5) What important thing did he wish to convey?

Galatians 2:19-21 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might _____ unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the _____ of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the _____, then Christ is dead in vain.

It is Satan's studied effort to divert minds from the hope of salvation through faith in Christ and obedience to the law of God. In every age the archenemy adapts his temptations to the prejudices or inclinations of those whom he is seeking to deceive. In apostolic times he led the Jews to exalt the ceremonial law and reject Christ; at the present time he induces many professing Christians, under pretense of honoring Christ, to cast contempt on the moral law and to teach that its precepts may be transgressed with impunity.

- 6) Was Abraham saved by works or by grace?

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham _____ God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:7-9 Know ye therefore that they which are of _____, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the _____ through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

- 7) Are you blessed if you try to be saved by the keeping of the law?

Galatians 3:10-11 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the _____: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is _____ by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

- 8) How do we become children of Abraham?

Galatians 3:13-14 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse _____: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through _____.

- 9) Is the law bad?

Galatians 3:21-22 Is the law then _____ the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded _____ under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our _____ to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

- 10) What did Paul say about the freedom of faith in Christ?

Galatians 3:27-29 For as many of you as have been _____ into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all _____ in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and _____ according to the promise.



11) Where does the Spirit reside?

Galatians 4:6-7 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your _____, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a _____; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

In the Galatian churches, open, unmasked error was supplanting the gospel message. Christ, the true foundation of the faith, was virtually renounced for the obsolete ceremonies of Judaism. The apostle saw that if the believers in Galatia were saved from the dangerous influences which threatened them, the most decisive measures must be taken, the sharpest warnings given.

12) What pleadings did Paul make?

Galatians 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in _____?

Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your _____, because I tell you the truth?

13) What directive did Paul give them?

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the _____ wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

The Holy Spirit wrought with mighty power, and many whose feet had wandered into strange paths, returned to their former faith in the gospel. Henceforth they were steadfast in the liberty wherewith Christ had made them free. In their lives were revealed the fruits of the Spirit.

14) Paul tells us to have the fruits of the Spirit, what are they?

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is _____, joy, _____, longsuffering, gentleness, _____, faith, Meekness, _____: against such there is no law.

15) How are we to treat our brethren?

Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a _____, ye which are spiritual, _____ such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us _____ unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Paul pleaded with those who had once known in their lives the power of God, to return to their first love of gospel truth. With unanswerable arguments he set before them their privilege of becoming free men and women in Christ, through whose atoning grace all who make full surrender are clothed with the robe of His righteousness. He took the position that every soul who would be saved must have a genuine, personal experience in the things of God.

Can you see Paul dearly loved God's Church?

Would you like to stay on the path of righteousness?

When is the time to pray?