

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

LESSON FOUR – CHAPTER TWO

DEFENDING THE GOSPEL AND NO RETURN TO THE LAW

February 3, 2021

Wherever TRUTH travels, you can expect falsehoods not to be very far behind. This is a consistent practice of Satan – that the truth of God’s Word might be snatched from the hearts of believers as soon as possible – that it not be allowed to take root and grow.

Matthew 13:24-30

“Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’ ““An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. ““Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. ““No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’””

Matthew 13:24-30 NLT

Acts 20:28-30–Ephesus

““So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock – his church, purchased with his own blood – over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.”

Acts of the Apostles 20:28-30 NLT

1Timothy 4:1-2

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,”

I Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV

The Apostle Paul is yet defending his apostleship – though he had received his message independently of the, other apostles, his message preached was the same as their. “His gospel was independent in terms of revelation but identical in terms of content.”

“Paul demonstrated by his coming to Jerusalem that his companion, his commission, and his commendation was of one truth and one spirit with the other twelve apostles.”

CONTEXT: Fourteen years after his first visit, where Paul met Peter and James, he traveled again to Jerusalem. For seventeen years, Paul had preached the gospel WITHOUT ANY HUMAN INSTRUCTION – his message was entirely by God’s direct revelation.

A. Paul’s message was that one was saved by Grace alone. There was no need to follow the Mosaic Law which included circumcision prior to salvation. Some Jewish teachers confronted Paul and disputed with him, which ultimately led to his visit to Jerusalem to dialogue with the Council of brethren to settle this most urgent matter! The disputes occurred in Antioch where persons were first called Christians.

B. Barnabas accompanied Paul on this journey to Jerusalem (his name means Son of consolation or son of exhortation, son of comfort).

C. Titus also accompanied Paul on his journey back to Jerusalem (his name means title of honor) and was a Gentile.

Paul went to Jerusalem for these reasons:

1. Because of a revelation

2. To lay before the Council (submit before the Council for consideration) the gospel he had always preached to the Gentiles

A. Paul's gospel was totally contrary to the works-righteous belief of the Judaizers that "unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved". Paul instead believed and taught the "gospel of salvation by God's sovereign grace through man's penitent faith."

CONCLUSION: Paul did not go to Jerusalem to seek affirmation but instead to make clear that what he was preaching was identical, to, what the original, apostles were teaching. He needed no human clarification or affirmation. That the Galatians who heard his message would know, he sought to have his words affirmed for the Judaizers had falsely claimed the council to support their position of circumcision before salvation. The council wholehearted condemned such speech or claims.

Acts15:22-29

"Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, " You must be circumcised and keep the law" – to whom we gave no such commandment – it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

Acts 15:22-29 NKJV

PETER AND RETURNING TO THE LAW

Antioch – largest city in the Roman province of Syria

A. First place followers of Christ were called Christians

B. Paul withstood Peter – for contradictory and hypocritical behavior

C. Certain men came from James (a church pillar); upon his authority but it is unlikely that they accurately represented the views of James

Clarity of verse 15:

A. Romans 3:23 makes plain that ALL HAVE SINNED! Paul's use of the statement "We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles" implies that Jews have special privileges that should make them more knowledgeable about how to be justified before God.

Galatians 3:5-7

"Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? – just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham."

Galatians 3:5-7 NKJV

THE LAW IS NOT SINFUL!!! The purpose of the Law is to convince/convict a person of their spiritual deadness in sin outside of faith in Christ.

Romans 7:7-13

“Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, “You must not covet.” But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, and I died. So I discovered that the law’s commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me. But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God’s good commands for its own evil purposes.”

Romans 7:7-13 NLT

JUSTIFICATION IS BY FAITH ALONE!

A. If one could attain righteousness by keeping the law of Moses, then Jesus died in vain. The price He paid for our sins would be useless and of no effect.