REMINDERS OF THE FAITH

**DATE: 6/10/2015 Wed.**

**TEXT: Galatians 1:6-10**

**INTRODUCTION**

The *Reminders* in these verses are parallel to a warning Paul also gave to the Corinthian Believers

**I Corinthians 10:12 – *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”***

These Galatian Believers, who where once settled in the Gospel of Grace, were now struggling

Paul wrote this epistle after learning of the inroads some False Teachers were making

They were trying to bring these Believers under the Law of Moses

**5:10b *–“but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be”***

They were preaching ***“another Gospel”*** (end of **v.6**)

A perverted gospel of Faith + Works

The Galatian Believers who were saved out of paganism …

**4:8 – *“Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods”***

… Were now being placed under a new bondage

This time the Law of Moses

**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 bondage?”***

Becausethese attempts were made by Jewish Teachers

These False Teachers got the name “Judaizers”

These False Teachers were attempting to do a couple of things:

- Discredit the Apostle Paul

Paul was well-loved and respected by the Galatians

**4:14b – *“but [ye] received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus”***

- Convince the Believers that keeping the Law of Moses was necessary either for their salvation or to perfect their salvation

**3:3 – *“Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”***

Apparently, these False Teachers had come to them zealously

And many of the immature Believers were caught up

**4:17a – *“They zealously affect you, but not well;”***

The change was both Dramatic and Surprising

**3:1 – “*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”***

**5:7 – *“Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”***

Paul sets out to help these struggling Christians by some –

***“Reminders of the Faith”***

Let’s stand and read **vs. 6-10** together

***~~~Prayer~~~***

**I. THEIR “REMOVAL FROM” FAITH – v.6**

***“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:”***

In most of Paul's letters, we find some praise for the recipients, before dealing with the subject of the letter

Paul doesn't do that here

He immediately jumps into the matter at hand

When the Gospel is at stake there is no time for pleasantries

The issue must be dealt with

**A. The ‘Surprise’ of the Removal**

Paul says - ***“I marvel”***

The words ***“I marvel”*** means to *wonder at*

The word ***“marvel”*** is a verb in the presence tense

This most likely indicates that Paul must have just heard about what was going on there

Even as he writes this letter, he’s amazed / surprised at the Galatians’ sudden departure from the Truth

Paul had not been gone long from these young churches when all this started to happen

The word ***“marvel”*** is not an angry term though

But rather one of shock!

**B. The ‘Suddenness’ of Removal**

***“that ye are so soon removed”***

This phrase means to *transpose / or to reverse the order of things*

It means *to transfer; to change; to fall away* or *desert from one person or thing to another*

Some of the Galatian Believers were transferring their allegiance from Christ to another gospel

They did not lose their salvation

But by following False Teachers they would lose their Fellowship … with God!

***“from Him that called you into the grace of Christ”***

God had called these Believers by His Grace

God calls all Believers by His Grace

**Ephesians 2:8, 9 – *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” “Not of works, lest any man should boast”***

They were removing themselves from Grace unto …

**v.6** - ***“another Gospel”***

This was not the Gospel at all

**v.7a – *“Which is not another;”***

… But Heresy

Paul uses that terminology, because that was what the False Teachers were trying to pass it off as

They tried to mix Faith and Works

Jewish traditions with Grace

Adding to Grace … their works, to Merit Salvation

**THEIR “REMOVAL FROM” FAITH**

**II. THEIR “REMINDER CONCERNING” FAITH – vs. 7 – 9**

In **vs. 7-9** Paul confronts the Galatians for their readiness to accept error

He is amazed that they would so suddenly surrender the truth of the Gospel

He labels their action as deserting God

God had called them into the Grace of Christ;

Now they were putting themselves under the Curse of the Law

They had accepted the True Gospel;

Now they were abandoning it for a different gospel which was not the Gospel at all

It was just a perverted message, a mixture of Grace and Law

**A. There are ‘Perverted’ Gospels – v.7**

***“Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ”***

**1.** Another gospel

***“Another gospel”*** is not a different *true* Gospel

For there is only one True Gospel

***“Another gospel”*** meant there were those trying to teach something different than what Paul had taught the Galatians

After Paul had preached the True Gospel of Grace to the region of Galatia,

And many received the Gospel unto salvation …

Somebody came along and preached something else and called it *“the gospel”*

But it perverted the True Gospel

***“and would pervert the gospel of Christ”***

Did you know the Mormon’s call their doctrine *“another gospel”*

But Scripture is clear that there can be no other gospel

…Than that which is found in the NT

Which is - Grace through Faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ

These false teachers who came to Galatians were called Judaizers

Because they attempted to add Jewish Ceremonial requirements to the True Gospel

Many call it Legalism today

Legalism is any attempt to mix the works of the Law with Grace

The Judaizers were dangerous because they called their message a gospel

Their “gospel” taught that to gain entrance into heaven people must fulfill the Law

Actively trying to fulfill the Law nullifies the teaching of Grace

In fact, Paul explains later in **Galatians 3:24**

…that there is but one purpose for the Law

And that, that purpose was to help people see their need for Christ’s Grace

***“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith”***

Not only ***“another gospel”***

But also -

**2.** Troubling Teachers

***“there be some that trouble you,”***

The word ***“trouble”*** means *to disturb* or *agitate*

Paul tells these churches that these folks are nothing but trouble makers

This warning against False Teachers is given several times throughout the NT

**II Timothy 4:3, 4 – *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;” “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”***

**I John 2:18, 19 – *“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time”* *“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us”***

**There are ‘Perverted’ Gospels**

**B. There is a ‘Proven’ Gospel – vs. 8, 9**

So serious is this matter that Paul pronounces a curse on any one who preaches another gospel!

There were no exclusions!

**1.** The ‘Meaning’ of the Gospel **– v. 8**

***“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 accursed”***

The word ***“Gospel”*** means *glad tidings* or *Good News*

There are many circumstances that can bring Glad Tidings or Good News

But there is only One True Gospel of Grace unto Salvation

This is the Gospel preached in **Acts 13:38, 39 –**

***“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto***

***you the forgiveness of sins:” “And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses”***

Let’s jump ahead to **Galatians 2:15, 16 –**

***“We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,” “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified”***

**Quote:** D. L. Moody once said – *“The thief had nails through both hands, so that he could not work; and a nail through each foot, so that he could not run errands for the Lord, he could not lift a hand or a foot toward his salvation, and yet Christ offered him the gift of God; and he took it. Christ threw him a passport, and took him into Paradise”*

The ‘Meaning’ of the Gospel

**2.** The ‘Misuse’ of the Gospel **– v. 9**

The phrase ***“but though”*** in **v.8** expresses a conditional statement

In other words, ***“If we*** (Paul and those with him) ***or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached …”***

The word ***“but”*** is a conjunction in the strongest sense and used to show contrast

We can better understand this statement by looking at **II Corinthians 11:13, 14 …**

***“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ” “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light”***

Paul repeats himself in **v.9** for a reason

The repetition adds emphasis to an already serious passage / problem

The word ***“accursed”*** is the Greek word *“anathema”*

Meaning *a thing devoted to God without hope of being redeemed*

It talking about a person or thing Doomed to destruction

The Apostle Paul’s grave warning to anyone who changes the True Message of Christ is that they will be destroyed!

**THEIR “REMOVAL FROM” FAITH**

**THEIR “REMINDER CONCERNING” FAITH**

**III. THEIR “REALIZATION SURROUNDING” FAITH - v.10**

**A. The ‘Cause of’ True Faith – v. 10a**

***“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men?”***

**1.** God’s Favor

The word ***“persuade”,*** means *to make friends of, to win someone’s favor, to gain someone’s good will to seek to win someone,* or *strive to please someone*

Paul asks the Galatians believers here if his goal is to persuade men or God

He uses rhetorical questions to demonstrate that his goal is to gain the Lord’s favor

Paul also uses the word ***“now”,***perhaps referring to his past, before salvation

In Paul’s religious life before his conversion, he was concerned only with finding favor with man

Skip down to **vs. 13, 14 *– “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:” “And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers”***

Before his conversion, Paul was motivated by pleasing man

But he emphasizes in these verses that ***“now”*** his motivation is wholly to please God!

The ‘Cause of’ True Faith is God’s Favor

True Faith will also -

**2.** Please God

The word ***“please”*** means *to strive to accommodate the opinions, desires and interest of others*

***“…do I seek to please men?”***

Paul states the obvious here

His life is focused on one thing – Pleasing God

This mission statement meant keeping the Gospel Christ-Centered, and Not Man-Centered

The Christ-Centered Gospel taught by Paul was Salvation by Grace through Faith alone

However, a Man-Centered Gospel was what the Jewish Teachers were trying to get the Gentile Churches (like the ones in the region of Galatia) to believe

This Man-Centered Gospel taught that man has to do his part to earn or keep his salvation

Paul’s Goal was not to please man, but God

His sole concern was to please the One who had chosen him

**II Timothy 2:4 – *“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier”***

**Hebrews 11:6 – *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”***

**The ‘Cause of’ True Faith**

**B. The ‘Commitment to’ True Faith – v.10b**

***“…for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ”***

Paul expresses that ***“to be the servant of Christ”*** …

He must forsake trying to please anyone else

The word ***“yet”*** refers to Paul’s past compared with his current commitment

If he were still living the way he did before his salvation

Then he would be a Man-Pleaser

If he is a Man-Pleaser, he is not a servant of Christ

Paul wasn't competing in a popularity contest

He had one motive and that was to please the Lord Jesus Christ

Paul knew that it was impossible to please both man and God

There is no middle ground when it comes to serving Christ

Christ must come first

**Matthew 6:24** – *“****No man can serve two masters...”***

Paul never played politics

He never sought to bring honor to himself

His desire was to magnify and honor the Lord

In **II Corinthians 12:19** Paul explains that even his preaching and teaching were not meant to Please man but to speak for God

***“Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying”***

**The ‘Cause of’ and the ‘Commitment’ to True Faith**

**THAT’S THE “REALIZATION SURROUNDING” FAITH**

**CONCLUSION**

Paul’s Reminder of Our Commitment to God instead of man …

Echoes the conclusion of Jesus’ parable in **Matthew 25:21**

***“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord”***

While living as a Servant of Christ may mean sacrifice of earthly friendships, honor and wealth

- A Committed believer understands that the treasure he seeks is in Heaven

- The honor he desires comes from the lips of our Saviour

- And the friendship he knows is one that brings peace that the world cannot give

**THEIR “REMOVAL AWAY FROM” FAITH**

**THEIR “REMINDER CONCERNING” FAITH**

**THEIR “REALIZATION SURROUNDING” FAITH**