

GALATIANS 1:10-13

1. There were some **believing** Jews in the 12's Kingdom message (Jesus is the Christ-Messiah) who thought those Gentiles saved by grace should also be **under** the law. They, at this moment in time, did not see how one could be saved by grace through faith **alone**. They were blending the Kingdom to Israel message (Acts 2:38) with the Grace to the Body message (Romans 3:24).

Paul calls them intruders, troublemakers, and the **leaders** of the Jerusalem Church agreed with Paul.

2. The Galatian letter was written soon after the Acts **15** Council in Jerusalem where Paul met with Pastor James, Peter, and John to **decide** on the problem (and others in the Jewish Church).

Acts 15:1-2, 4-5, 9-13, 18-19, 23-25 - And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. Acts 15:4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses. Acts 15:9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Acts 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. Acts 15:12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. Acts 15:13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me: Acts 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. Acts 15:19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: Acts 15:23 And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Acts 15:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment: Acts 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

- a. The Jewish Little Flock's Kingdom Law thinking was questioning who had any right to move **away** from the Law that God Himself had established. Was it now right to think of **uncircumcised** Gentiles as being the people of God along with themselves?

****At this moment, little information** had been given to them that the Law (the middle wall of partition) had been **removed** by the **cross**. Circumcision | wall | Uncircumcision

Ephesians 2:13-15 - But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Eph. 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

- b. No doubt, the Little Flock were mystified by how the Gentiles were then being saved by great numbers under Paul's **new** message of grace, **without** the Law!

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: Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

****This was why some of the Jewish believers took it upon themselves to come to Antioch (Galatia area) to correct this seeming error. They were genuinely concerned and that moved them to begin teaching their Law. But they were wrong!**

- c. God knew it was best to help resolve this controversy, so He sends Paul and Barnabas to the Jerusalem Council to defend the grace message.

**** It is during this dispute that Peter is awakened by God about his encounter with Cornelius in Acts 10. Peter speaks up to help his brethren as to what was happening. Peter states God's approval on the Gentiles without the Law, by pouring out His Spirit on them as He had in Acts 2. Peter, leader of the 12, states that Gentiles and Jews were both now saved by faith in Christ. Peter is showing full acceptance of the Gentiles as he had heard Paul's defense in their private meeting prior to the Council meeting.**

- d. Peter might not have understood all of Paul's message (no doubt hard to comprehend), but he did recognize that God had begun something new under Paul's apostleship. He did know, that from now on, the Jews had to come to Christ under the same conditions as the Gentiles (verse 11).

****Surely Peter recognized that the Gentiles were not coming to Christ as required under the Law, or by way of circumcision and keeping the commandments.**

- e. James, the pastor and half-brother of Jesus, gives the Council's decision (Matthew 13:55-57). James agrees with Peter's statement as truth concerning the gospel. He also assures them that the new Pauline ministry will not destroy God's plan to fulfill His Prophetic Program. There perhaps is a delay, but when the new program is over, God once again deals with Israel to fulfill His promises to them. ****So James, as leader - judge of the Jerusalem Church, based upon the facts presented by both sides, gives his decision. The Gentiles were not to be under their Law-Prophetic program. They also sent a committee from their church, with a letter from the Jerusalem Church, to inform the churches of Galatia of their decision. The letter would testify of their total support of Paul's apostleship and ministry to the Gentiles through the Gospel of Grace.**

Galatians 2:7, 9 - But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision *was* unto Peter; Gal. 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

***The 12 would now confine their ministry to their own nation - Jews, no longer doing the Great Commission.**

- A. Galatians 1:10 - For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

1. Paul used what he could to legitimately win the lost.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22 - For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. 1Cor. 9:20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 1Cor. 9:21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 1Cor. 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

2. Paul's detractors used that against him. They had said Paul was only trying to please men. ****But it was his pure grace message that denied any need for law that got him into trouble. Paul never would**

compromise his message. The reason Paul did these things was because he was a bonds slave to Christ!

3. It (as Paul says) would be **im**possible for Paul to try to please men, while at the same time be a voluntary servant to Christ.

Note: This is a **re**buke to **pre**achers who water it down to make their message acceptable to their listeners.

- a. To worry if the people will like or approve their message removes **lib**erty and **en**slaves the preacher to men.
- b. It is wrong to preach peace at any cost, so you do not rock the boat.
 - (1) Paul, prior to grace, had been with the in-group who were popular and profited, but made the Word of God **void**.

Galatians 1:14 - And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

- (2) Paul had learned and would **not** preach to just please men.

I Thessalonians 2:4 - But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

II Corinthians 4:1-2 - Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2Cor. 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

**** Paul would not tell men what they **wanted** to hear, but what they **needed**. Neither people nor **culture** ever affected the content of his message.**

I Corinthians 1:22-23 - For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 1Cor. 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

II Timothy 4:2 - Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

- B.

<u>Galatians 1:11-12</u> - But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man <u>Gal. 1:12</u> For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught <i>it</i> , but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.
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*Here Paul shows the **proof** of his apostleship and the uniqueness of his gospel.

1. The word "certify" means safe, sure, genuine, and godly legitimate. Paul's gospel was different from the 12's Kingdom Gospel, and it had God's stamp of approval since it came from **Him**!
2. Since Paul's gospel was unique, and to differentiate from the 12's, Paul calls it **his** gospel.

Romans 2:16 - In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Romans 16:25 - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

II Timothy 2:8 - Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

3. Paul received his message **directly** from Christ from Heaven. He uses several expressions that deny any human origin for his message.

- a. [is not after man] Paul's gospel and message was not concocted in the mind of **man**.

I Thessalonians 2:13 - For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

- b. [I neither received it of man] This is important because most assume Paul's gospel was just a **continuation** of what was preached by the 12. Christendom does not separate the 12's message from Paul's because they see **no** difference. **But the fact that Paul did not receive it from man, but from Christ **personally**, makes Paul's message **unique**.

- c. [neither was I taught it] The 12 were taught their message repeatedly when Christ would bodily **sit** down with them and instruct them. Paul had not sat down with the 12 to learn His message, but he learned from a Heavenly Christ. Paul had received his grace message - gospel like no one else, making it **unique** and **different**.

- d. [but by the revelation of Jesus Christ]

- (1) Paul's message was not of human origin or even human transmission. Jesus Christ **personally** unveiled, **uncovered** God's **hidden** mystery to Paul.

- (2) [revelation] has the idea that this truth could not be understood unless **God** **uncovered** it. It is an act of God in which He reveals certain new truth to chosen men. Paul was privileged to have seen the resurrected, glorified Lord. He received revelation after revelation about God's **secret** plan from Christ personally.

Acts 9:3-6 - And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is hard* for thee to kick against the pricks. Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Acts 26:16 - But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

II Corinthians 12:1-2 - It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2Cor. 12:2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

Paul **saw and **talked** with Jesus Christ. If the same message as the 12, why all this with **Paul**?

- C. Galatians 1:13 - 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:

1. Paul's zeal, reputation, and his love for the Law were well known. Often Paul would incorporate his personal testimony to share the gospel or to make a point. The word "conversation" has the meaning of one's living, lifestyle, or behavior.
2. [in the Jews religion] Judaism had just become a religion. In its beginning, it had the Law (613 rules), the priesthood, sacrificial worship, feast days, and it was pure. But Israel's leaders had over the years progressively degenerated into a spiritual downgrade until it had become apostate. This was proven by their unbelief and rejection of Jesus Christ. That resulted in Israel crucifying Christ and then committing the unpardonable sin in their stoning of Stephen. **Paul was a part of that religion to try to eradicate the Little Flock! He was a fanatic who was in a frenzy to punish Christ followers.

Acts 7:56-58 - And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Acts 7:57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, Acts 7:58 And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Acts 8:1, 3 - And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

Acts 9:1 - And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Acts 26:10 - Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*.

Acts 22:4 - And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.