

“A Question Of Authority”
Galatians 1:10-2:10
7/2/23
Message 2

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “A Question Of Authority”

- **Review**

- **The Letter was sent to**

- The area known as Galatia
- Not to one church
- BUT several churches
- Like to the churches in Northern Cal

- **Purpose for The letter**

- Address False Teachers that Slithered in
 - Known as Judaizers (Legalist)
- The Judaizers taught
 - Salvation by WORKS
 - Christ plus the Law of Moses – Circumcision
- Paul confronted them!
 - Stood up for Salvation By GRACE & FAITH ALONE
- Last week
 - Why Legalism is so popular to our flesh

- Why do people choose Legalism over Grace?
 - Legalism is more Appealing to OUR flesh
- The Flesh
 - Wants to EARN something
 - Wants to believe that there is good in me
- Faith in Christ requires
 - Repentance & Humility
 - Since Christ did it all
 - This is hard on my ego!
 - If faith can be reduced to regulations
 - I can feel good about my accomplishments.
- Legalism is more Natural!
 - Most of our human experiences says
 - You get what you work for!
 - Nothing is free in this world!
- Legalism is more Manageable!
 - It is easier to do certain well-defined duties
 - Then exercise a life-changing faith.
- Legalism appears to be – More - Safe!
 - Freedom is dangerous

- Leaving matters up to the Holy Spirit and the individual's Convictions
- Legalists are right in that Control is needed.
 - BUT They are wrong about where the control must come from!
 - Outward Restrictions
 - Are ineffective in creating moral living!
 - Inward Convictions
 - Come from being empowered by the H.S.
 - TRUE CHANGE IN A PERSON'S LIFE COMES FROM THE INSIDE OUT - NOT FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

• **In Our text this morning - Paul Confronts the Judaizers**

- **The Primary objectives of the Judaizers**
 - **To UNDERMINE Paul's Authority**
 - They were Stirring up Controversy & Confusion
 - Attempting to Discredit Paul's Apostolic Authority
 - "He is not one of the original"
 - "He is Self-Appointed"
 - "Paul was not a legitimate apostle"
 - **The way they UNDERMINED his teaching**
 - They accused him of putting aside the Mosaic Ceremonies & Practices

- In order to make the gospel more appealing to Gentiles by removing its Jewish associations.
- Their strategy WAS **working**
 - It caused many members of the Galatian churches to begin doubting Paul's apostolic legitimacy!
- **Sadly - This is still True today**
 - **Undermining Paul**
 - Many woke churches are attempting to still undermine Paul
 - Because his message was solid, filled with truth – in the world's eyes too much truth
 - **Even happens to Pastors**
 - If a church does not like the message from pastor
 - It's not uncommon for them to begin to tear that pastor apart
 - So they can feel better about themselves without repenting

• **So - This morning 2 powerful TRUTHS in "A Question of Authority"**

- Paul's Call To Apostleship vs. 1:10-24
- Confirmation Of Paul's Apostleship vs. 2:1-10

Paul's Call To Apostleship vs. 1:10-24

• **First: His Dedication To Pleasing God v. 10**

- **1st For do I now persuade men, or God? v. 10a**

Galatians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

- **The idea is that God was/ IS his audience!**

- When Paul spoke, he spoke first to God and not to man

Proverbs 29:25 (NKJV)

25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

- **2nd Or do I seek to please men? V. 10b**

Galatians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

- Paul's first Obligation was to PLEASE God and NOT to please men.
 - He refused to shape his message just to please his audience.
 - He was more concerned about pleasing God.

- **3rd For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ v. 10c**

Galatians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? **For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.**

- He could not direct his ministry towards pleasing men
 - And at the same time direct it towards pleasing Jesus Christ.

- **4th Lesson x 2**

- **1st Be careful about living to please MAN rather than GOD**

- If we seek to please Man we will NOT please God
 - The issue is
 - Who are you trying to please?
 - Whose approval are you seeking first?
- If you are seeking man's approval before God, you are in trouble.
 - *Spurgeon; "Those whom we try to please are our masters. If a man tries to please the populace or to please the refined few, these are his masters, and he will be their slave. But if he tries to please his God, then he is a free man indeed. Seek to please men for their good to edification, but never forget that he who is the servant of men cannot be the servant of God, for "no one can serve two masters" (Matt 6:24).*
 - *Spurgeon; "Christ's ministers must never be people-pleasers, or they are false to their trust. Offend or please, their one business is to preach the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."*
- Illustration:
 - An old fable that has been passed down for generations tell's about an elderly man who was traveling with a boy and a donkey.
 - As they walked through a village
 - The man was leading the donkey and the boy was walking behind.
 - The townspeople said the old man was a fool for not riding

- So, to please them he climbed up on the animal's back.
- When they came to the next village
 - The people said the old man was cruel to let the child walk while he enjoyed the ride.
 - So, to please them, he got off and set the boy on the animal's back and continued on his way.
- In the third village
 - People accused the child of being lazy for making the old man walk
 - The suggestion was made that they BOTH RIDE
 - So, the man climbed on and they set off again.
- In the fourth village
 - The townspeople were indignant at the cruelty to the donkey because he was being forced to carry 2 people.
- The frustrated man
 - Was last seen carrying the donkey down the road
- Many will seek to Control and Manipulate you away from God's TRUTH
 - Family
 - Friends

- Co-Workers
- People seek to Control and Manipulate Pastors
 - We are NOT talking Essentials
 - But on Non-Essentials
 - A Church body may not like a position a pastor takes on Non-Essentials Theological issue
 - Like Pre-Tribulation
 - So they people that don't like that position will
 - Will show through body language
 - Frown say snide remarks
 - Seek to gather people to their cause
 - All in an Attempt – to stop you from teaching your point of view
 - A Church Body may not like an Administrative or Philosophy that a pastor takes
 - They will seek to undermine the pastor's authority the same way
 - Application - I listen to a LOT of Pastors
 - NOT one, do I agree with 100%
 - In Non- Essentials or in Administrative or Philosophy
 - A SURE SIGN OF PRIDE
 - We can't tolerate another opinion

- We can't even LISTEN to them
 - *"In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity."*

- Remember

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- **2nd Pastors better Know who they WORK FOR**

- We work for Jesus.
- We are His "Bondservant"

Colossians 3:23–24 (NKJV)

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,
24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

• Second: His Defense Of His Gospel vs. 11-12

- **1st The gospel which was preached by me v. 11**

Galatians 1:11 (NKJV)

11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

- Is NOT according to man:
 - In contrast to the false gospel by the Judaizers
 - Paul's message was a revelation from God.
 - Guzik; *Paul's message was not a man's attempt to reach up and understand God; it was God's effort to bow down and communicate with man.*

- Men Teaching vs God's
 - Man may stumble on "some truth"
 - BUT God's Word is FULL Truth
 - It's ALL we need

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- **2nd But it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ v. 12**

Galatians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- **1st Paul's own relationship to Jesus was unique**

Acts 9:1–9 (NKJV)

1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

- **2nd Jesus spoke to him and taught him:**

Acts 26:13–18 (NKJV)

- 13** at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.
- 14** And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, *‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’*
- 15** So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, *‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.’*
- 16** *But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.*
- 17** *I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,*
- 18** *to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’*

• **Third: His Description Of His Conversion vs. 13-24**

- **1st For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism v. 13a**

Galatians 1:13 (NKJV)

- 13** **For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism,** how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

- **1st For you have heard**

- A Little of Saul’s Life

- **2nd My former conduct in Judaism**

- In passionate zeal for the law and traditions of his fathers
 - He surpassed many other Jews of his own age.
- Therefore, his gospel of salvation by faith apart from the law could certainly not be attributed to any ignorance of the law.

- 2nd how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure v. 13b

Galatians 1:13 (NKJV)

13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

- Saul had been very zealous in persecuting the early church.

- **Stephen's Death**

Acts 8:1 (NKJV)

1 Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

- **Having people thrown into prison.**

Acts 8:3 (NKJV)

3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

- **On his way to Damascus**

Acts 9:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

- 3rd And I advanced in Judaism v. 14

Galatians 1:14 (NKJV)

14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

- **Paul had quite a resume as a Jew:**

- He was born a Jew

- Was educated by the great rabbi Gamaliel himself (Acts 22:3)
- He was tops in his class at Jewish-ness school.
- More zealous for the traditions of my fathers.
- He was in fact a Pharisee, the strict, legalistic sect of Judaism (Acts 26:5)

Philippians 3:4–6 (NKJV)

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

○ **4th But when it pleased God v. 15**

Galatians 1:15 (NKJV)

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

▪ **1st Pleased God**

- I like how Paul describes his salvation.
 - He realizes what a Wretched Sinner he was
 - Yet God's attitude toward it was that it "Pleased Him"
- God is not "reluctantly" saving people.
 - He's gladly, happily, doing it.
 - In fact, all of heaven rejoices

▪ **2nd Who separated me from my mother's womb**

- Paul recognized God's sovereign plan on his life.
 - He knew that God had picked him out before he was even born.
 - Jeremiah also expressed this same thing (Jer. 1:5)
- Don't forget God's plan for your life!

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

▪ **3rd Called me through His GRACE**

- Paul wasn't called to follow Jesus because he had somehow earned the right to be saved.
- It's ALL ABOUT GRACE!

○ **5th To reveal His Son in me v. 16**

Galatians 1:16 (NKJV)

16 *to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,*

▪ **Reveal His Son In me**

- Jesus Christ is formed inside of you!

Colossians 1:27 (NKJV)

27 *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

▪ **The PURPOSE –**

- **That I might preach Him among the Gentiles,**
- You have to know that this is an extremely distasteful thought to a Jew, especially a Pharisee.

- To the Pharisee, the Gentiles were only made by God as fuel for the fires of hell.
- **I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,**
 - He did not immediately confer with “Human Leaders”
 - This was not out of disrespect for his fellow-apostles
 - It was rather because he had been commissioned by the risen Lord Himself and given a unique ministry to the Gentiles
 - Lesson -
 - WE (MEN) - Don’t call people to the ministry
 - The CALL comes from GOD
 - Straight from God to the human heart
 - WHAT we do is simply recognize that call
- **6th Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me v. 17**

Galatians 1:17 (NKJV)

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

- Paul after his conversion didn't go to the apostles in Jerusalem
 - To learn or "be ordained" by men
 - To LEARN FROM God
 - A time of SECLUSION to focus on GOD and His Word
- **7th Three Years – Glorified God in me v. 18-24**

Galatians 1:18–24 (NKJV)

18 *Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.*

19 *But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.*

20 *(Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)*

21 *Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.*

22 *And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.*

23 *But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."*

24 *And they glorified God in me.*

- When Paul finally visited Jerusalem, he met only Peter and James.
- Paul who had treated the Christians so cruelly was now a Christian himself
- He was preaching Christ to others.
- Because of this they glorified God for what He had done in the life of Paul

Confirmation Of Paul's Apostleship vs. 2:1-10

• First: The Reason Paul Went To Jerusalem vs. 1-3

- **1st Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem v. 1**

Galatians 2:1 (NKJV)

1 *Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.*

▪ Which Trip is this?

- Much debate has centered on the question of which trip this
 - Paul took to Jerusalem with Barnabas, a Jewish believer, and Titus, a Gentile believer.

- The Book of Acts mentions 5 Jerusalem visits made by Paul after his conversion
 - 1st The visit after he left Damascus (Acts 9:26–30; Gal. 1:18–20)
 - 2nd The Famine Visit (Acts 11:27–30)
 - Which a lot of commentators believe this is the trip he talking about
 - 3rd The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1–30)
 - Or this one
 - I lean towards this trip in Gal. 2:1
 - Turn To Acts 15
 - 4th The end of the second missionary journey (Acts 18:22)
 - 5th The final visit which resulted in Paul's Caesarean imprisonment (Acts 21:15–23:35).
- **2nd With Barnabas, and also took Titus with me**
 - Barnabas –
 - Encourager
 - Titus
 - Titus was a remarkable man and associate of the Apostle Paul.
 - In 2 Corinthians 2:13
 - Paul referred to Titus my brother, and says how he had no peace when Titus was absent.

- 2 Corinthians 7:6
 - Paul was comforted... by the coming of Titus.
- 2 Corinthians 8:6
 - Paul trusted Titus to receive a collection from the Corinthians.
- 2 Corinthians 8:16
 - Titus had the same earnest care that filled the heart of Paul.
- In 2 Corinthians 12:18
 - Paul spoke again of Titus, and how he shared Paul's heart:
- In Titus 1:4
 - Paul called Titus a true son in our common faith.
- **2nd And I went up by revelation v. 2**

Galatians 2:2 (NKJV)

2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.

- **1st Revelation**
 - The idea is that Paul went to Jerusalem by the express direction of God.
 - He did not go because any man called him to come; it was because God told him to go.
- **2nd And communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles:**

- That he had received from Jesus
- **3rd But privately to those who were of reputation**
 - To Show Respect for leadership
- **4th Lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain**
 - Probably it was the fear that an unnecessary conflict with the leaders of the church in Jerusalem leaders might damage his reputation and ministry in some way.
- **3rd Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek v. 3**

Galatians 2:3 (NKJV)

3 *Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.*

- Paul's point is that the leadership in Jerusalem accepted Titus (a Gentile convert)
- Even though he was not circumcised in accord with the Mosaic Law.
- This shows that the Jerusalem leadership accepted the gospel of grace as Paul understood it.

• Second: His Reaction To The Judaizers vs. 4-5

- **1st And this occurred because of false brethren v. 4**

Galatians 2:4 (NKJV)

4 *And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),*

- The Reason why Paul came!!!
- False teachers –

- Reason why I believe Acts 15 trip
- **2nd We did not yield submission even for an hour v. 5**

Galatians 2:5 (NKJV)

5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

- Everyone cries out PEACE UNITY
- That is not Paul's response to false teachers

▪ Paul sought TRUTH over PEACE

• Third: The Responsibility Paul Had & Peter Had vs. 6-8

- **1st But from those who seemed to be something v. 6**

Galatians 2:6 (NKJV)

6 But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.

- **1st Celebrity Pastors**
 - DID NOT Impress or Intimidate Paul
 - Whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man.
- **2nd Those who seemed to be something added nothing to me:**
 - Even though Paul met with influential and famous Christians a few times
 - They did not give him the gospel he preached.
 - The leaders in Jerusalem added nothing to the gospel Paul preached or to the apostolic authority he possessed.

- **2nd When they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me:**

Galatians 2:7–8 (NKJV)

*7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter
8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),*

- The gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter:
 - Paul's main ministry was to Gentiles
 - Peter's main ministry was to Jews.
 - These distinctions were not absolute; each did minister to the other groups.

• Fourth: The Response Of The Apostles Toward Paul vs. 9-10

Galatians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

*9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.*

- **1st Paul's Authority**
 - Was Accepted
- **2nd They desired only that we should remember the poor:**
 - The only caution from the leaders in Jerusalem was that Paul should remember the poor.
 - In this case, these were probably the poor saints in Jerusalem, whom Gentile believers should not forget.

Closing

- Thank God for PAUL
- If not for Paul, what would have happened to the GOSPEL
- We NEED MEN and WOMEN to STAND like Paul did

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*
24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*
25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*
26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*