

Sunday, September 4, 2022—Galatians 1:10-11 Paul Certifies His Gospel & Ministry

Galatians 1:10

- Before diving into the text of this verse, we need to recall the context in which this verse appears. Paul has just finished rebuking the Galatians for departing from his gospel by adding human performance for justification. In the previous two verses, Paul pronounced the curse of God upon those who would pervert the gospel of Christ.
- **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.**
- Paul uses two rhetorical questions in verse 10 to make an important point.
- **For do I now persuade men or God?**—the verb rendered “persuade” is in the present tense active voice and indicative mood. Therefore, Paul is talking about something he is actively doing while writing the epistle.
- The English verb “[persuade](#)” carries the following meaning according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*:
 - To influence by argument, advice, intreaty or expostulation; to draw or incline the will to a determination by presenting motives to the mind.
 - To convince by argument, or reasons offered; or to convince by reasons suggested by reflection or deliberation, or by evidence presented in any manner to the mind.
 - Matthew 27:20
 - Acts 26:26
- One can almost sense a sarcastic tone in Paul’s words in this verse. Essentially, Paul is asking the Galatians, “Am I trying to persuade God to remain in the truth?” No, he says, “I am trying to get you (Galatians) to remain in the truth.”
- **or do I seek to please men?**—Paul uses this question to focus on the reality that there are two different motives that control the actions of men. You either seek to please men like the Judaizers or please God by standing for the truth with Paul.
 - Acts 5:28-29
- **for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ**—Paul emphatically answers his own questions by stating that if I seek to please men, I cannot be the servant of Christ.
 - I Thessalonians 2:4—Satan is the one who drives us to seek the favor of men. The Holy Spirit drives us to seek the favor of God.
 - James 4:4—if a believer is a man pleaser, he or she displeases God.

- Unfortunately, today, just like in Paul’s day, preaching the pure Gospel of the Grace of God is shunned by the religious system. You can make more friends by criticizing Paul’s gospel than you can by standing for it. Many preachers today have their fingers on the pulse of what the people want, rather than on what they need.

Galatians 1:11

- **But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.**
- **But I certify you, brethren**—in my old notes I had the following definition for “certify” although I cannot locate my source at this time, “to attest authoritatively, confirm, to present in formal communication, to attest as being true and meeting a standard.”
- Meanwhile, Noah Webster offers the following relevant meanings for the verb “[certify](#).”
 - To testify to in writing; to make a declaration in writing, under hand, or hand and seal, to make known or establish a fact.
- Likewise, the *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the word as follows:
 - To make (a thing) certain; to guarantee as certain, attest in an authoritative manner; to give certain information of.
- The word rendered “certify” in Gal. 1:11 is used elsewhere in the New Testament in the sense of making something known.
 - Luke 2:15
 - Ephesians 1:9, 3:3, 3:5, 6:19—make known, made known
- Galatians 1:11—this verse begins Paul’s certification of his gospel and apostleship. He is now, through this epistle, going to present in formal communication i.e., in writing his credentials as an apostle and the veracity of his gospel.
- There are two clear points in verse 11:
 - Paul’s gospel was new and different from the Gospel of the Kingdom which the twelve preached.
 - Paul did not receive his gospel from any human agent.
- **that the gospel which was preached of me**—Paul is referring to the specific gospel that was given to him to preach.
 - Galatians 2:2—notice that Paul preached his gospel among the Gentiles.
 - Romans 16:12, II Timothy 2:8—“my gospel” refers to the fact that it was given to Paul and belonged to him.

- I Corinthians 15:1-4—the gospel Paul preached had to do with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the gospel by which all men can be saved today.
- John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and the twelve apostles preached the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - Mark 1:14
 - Matthew 3:1-3—John was preaching to repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.
 - Matthew 4:17, 23—Jesus Christ begins to preach the same message as John the Baptist. Notice the phrase “from that time.” This marks the beginning of Christ preaching the gospel of the kingdom.
 - Matthew 10:5-7—Jesus instructs the twelve to preach the same message that he and John the Baptist had been preaching.
 - Matthew 16:21—once again, notice the expression, “from that time.” In other words, this was the first time Jesus said anything to the Apostles about His impending death, burial, and resurrection.
 - Therefore, I know that the twelve apostles had been preaching a gospel for six chapters that had nothing to do with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.
- After Christ’s resurrection and ascension, Peter and the twelve preach the gospel of the circumcision.
 - Galatians 2:7
 - Luke 24:45-46—Jesus explains to them the significance of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - Acts 2:29-31—Peter preaches the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to fulfill the Davidic Covenant and inherit the throne of David.
- Acts 13:38-39—this is the first recorded preaching of the Gospel of the Grace of God. Paul preaches the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, not the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.
- **is not after man**—Paul clearly could not have received his gospel from any human source since no one preached it before Paul.
- That is to say, it did not originate from any human source. No human being contributed anything to it. It was not something conjured up in the mind of man.