

Sunday, August 27, 2023—Galatians 5:7-12 The Leaven of Legalism

### **Galatians 5:7**

- **Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?**
- Notice the use of the past tense in the expression “ye did run well.” The Galatians had begun their Christian lives making good spiritual progress. They were growing in the doctrines of grace.
  - Galatians 3:3-5
- At some point, the Judaizers came and hindered their spiritual progress. The Greek word translated “hinder” literally means to cut in, to impede what one is doing, or to interrupt one’s course of action.
- Paul leaves no room for compromise. By leaving the doctrines of grace, Paul says that they were no longer obeying the truth. We need to stand for the truth no matter what the cost.

### **Galatians 5:8**

- **This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.**
- The persuasion of the Galatians to not obey the truth through Law keeping and performance-based acceptance did not come from God.
- Notice that the word “calleth” is in the present tense. God, through His Word, is continuing to call His children back to the truth of grace. God is never happy or satisfied when saints fall from grace.
- “The message here is clear and plain—those trying to persuade men to keep the Law today are not from God; the source and origin of their message is not from God.
  - I Timothy 1:6-7

### **Galatians 5:9**

- **A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.**
- Paul uses the word “leaven” five times in his epistles and every time it is used to depict evil.
  - I Corinthians 5:6-8
- The illustration of leaven depicts the impact that the teaching of the Judaizers had upon the Galatians.
- In his commentary on *Galatians*, Ernest R. Campbell states the following regarding this verse:

- “A little leaven, such as teaching believers to keep the Mosaic Law, has the potential to leaven the whole lump, i.e., to permeate all the Galatian believers with evil. The implication of a “little” leaven is that at the beginning, the error was little and the number affected by it were few.” (Campbell, 129)
- Believers everywhere need to wake up to the serious nature of trying to mix Law with grace (Romans 11:6).

### **Galatians 5:10**

- **I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.**
- Paul’s confidence that the Galatians will recover themselves from error and remain in the truth rests in the Lord. No one apart from the Lord is able to establish and ground believers in the truth of the gospel.
  - Romans 16:25
  - II Thessalonians 2:17
- This verse makes it clear that the Galatians had not totally forsaken the Gospel of Grace for the Mosaic Law. While the Judaizers had troubled their minds and caused much confusion in their midst, Paul has confidence in the Lord that, through this corrective epistle, the Galatians will be stabilized in the truth.
- Lastly, notice that Paul says there is judgment waiting for those who trouble the Galatians.
  - Galatians 1:7-9
- How many Bible teachers are going to fall under the judgment of God for the doctrines they are teaching their assemblies?

### **Galatians 5:11**

- **And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.**
- The reason Paul was being persecuted by the Jews is because of his preaching regarding the Mosaic Law. In other words, if Paul had been preaching circumcision, there would have been no reason for the Jews to persecute him.
  - Galatians 6:12
  - II Timothy 3:12

- Acts 18: 9-10, 21:21, 27-31, 23:11
- I Corinthians 1:23—If Paul was still preaching that keeping the Law was necessary, then the cross would not be an offence or stumblingblock.

### **Galatians 5:12**

- **I would they were even cut off which trouble you.**
- There are two opinions about this verse. The first opinion says Paul is referring to them being removed from their midst. The second says Paul is referring to their own male anatomy.