GALATIANS 1:10-24

Review...

- The churches in Galatia...
 - o Galatia was not a city it was a geographical region...
 - Paul was writing to a whole group of churches in the area of Galatia...
 - Paul's first missionary journey Acts 13 & 14 had been in the region of Galatia...
 - So these churches were some of the first established by the Apostle...
 - o The problem was false teachers called Judaizers who had come into the church...
 - So Paul wrote the book to establish our freedom from the gospel of 'Legalism'...
 - It is a book that is all about the Gospel of Grace it is the Theme of the whole book...
 - Chapters 1-2 Paul personally deals with Grace and the Gospel...
 - Chapter 3-4 Paul address the doctrine of Grace in light of the Law of Moses...
 - Chapter 5-6 Paul practically deals with Grace in the daily life of the believer...
- GALATIANS 1:1-9 THE GOSPEL OF GRACE...
 - o 1st Paul as an example of Grace Paul was an Apostle but the least likely of all men...
 - o 2nd The message of the Gospel Grace and Peace through the cross of Jesus
 - o 3rd Rejecting Grace the churches in Galatia had begun to follow Legalism...
 - o 4th Rejecting Legalism Paul commanded them to reject any other gospel!

A BETTER GOSPEL... (3 THINGS)

- 1^{ST} Serving God or man... vs. 10-12 (3 things)
 - o 1st Paul was not concerned about pleasing men...
 - Before Paul's salvation before the Gospel of Grace he lived to please and serve men...
 - He had served under a religious system where he followed the rules of men...
 - He had been exceedingly zealous for the traditions of his fathers...
 - He even had advanced beyond all his peers working harder than them all...
 - So that by following those rules he had become famous among the Jews...
 - Famous among men but it did nothing to make him right with God...
 - Religion is not about pleasing God it is all about looking good before men...
 - Wearing the right clothes / having the right words / following the right traditions...
 - It is all to impress those around us but it has not power to save us from our sin!
 - Yet many prefer 'religion' and 'tradition' to a relationship with Jesus...
 - Because religion makes us look good makes us look holy in front of others...
 - o 2nd But now Paul rejected religion he wanted to please God...
 - Paul was no longer concerned about keeping the rules of religion...
 - He understood the only benefit that came from those rules was pleasing men...
 - If he still tried to live by those rules as the Judaizers were telling the Galatians to...
 - Then he would still be serving men and not be a servant of Christ!
 - The problem with all religions is they can do nothing to change the heart...
 - They can try to make you look good on the outside impress men...
 - But God sees the heart and without the Grace of God it is corrupt and evil...

- Those who dedicate themselves to religion are not serving Jesus Christ!
- o 3rd The Gospel message Paul preached had not been taught to him by men... vs. 11-12
 - The Judaizers were challenging the Gospel of Grace...
 - They questioned where Paul got the message who gave it to Him...
 - As if somehow it was just Paul's idea some new thing he had come up with...
 - But Paul had not given the churches another religion his own ideas...
 - Religion faith in rules and traditions has no power to save us from hell...
 - Religion is only men's vain imperfect attempt to reach up to a perfect God...
 - Paul received the Gospel as a direct revelation from Jesus Christ...
 - Just as Paul had received his apostleship from Jesus not from men...
 - He also got the Gospel message from Jesus and not from men!
 - The message Paul preached was God reached down to save man!
 - The Good News is not that we need to follow a lot of rules to be good enough...
 - The Gospel is that could not be good enough to get to heaven...
 - So God came down and paid the price for our sin so we could be saved...
 - Do we follow the ideas of men or the Gospel of God...
 - The question is what do we follow a religion / or the Gospel of Grace...
 - Do we obey the 'revelations' of men or the 'revelation' of Jesus Christ...
 - This is the contrast Paul opens up with are you looking to serve men or God!
- 2^{ND} Paul's salvation in God's time... vs. 13-19 (3 things)
 - o 1st Paul's past in the Jewish religion was well known among the churches.... vs. 13-14
 - Persecuting the church of God...
 - Paul (then called Saul) had consented to the stoning and death of Steven Acts 7
 - Acts 8:1 Saul made havoc the picture is a wild animal tearing apart another...
 - And brought persecution meaning to chase / hunt / pursue the church....
 - What is interesting is the results of the persecution the saints were scattered...
 - Jesus commanded the Apostles to go out into the whole world...
 - **Acts 1:8 -** "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
 - But up to that point the church had not moved far beyond Jerusalem...
 - It is easy to get comfortable in the familiar sometimes God shakes things up...
 - It is very likely that the disciples would not have left to spread the Gospel...
 - If Paul had not come against the church persecuted the believers...
 - **Genesis 50:20** "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day..."
 - God allows challenges to come into our lives to stir us up...
 - To make us dependant on Him rather than on the familiar...
 - The question is why did Paul have such hate for the Church...
 - The best answer is conviction Paul was a marked man...
 - It you throw a rock into a dog pound the one who yelps got hit...
 - If you have a friend or family member that is especially anti-Jesus...

- Chances are it is because God is working on their heart...
- After Paul persecuted the church in Jerusalem he wanted to go to Damascus
 - He had letters and authority from the priest to arrest anyone who confessed Jesus...
 - Saul's mindset 'breathing threats and murder' Acts 9:1
 - His very breath was like a warhorse that sniffed the smell of battle...
 - Saul wanted to destroy the church hated Christians because they were not Jews!
 - Religion is always divisive destructive turns people against each other...
 - If you are not part of MY religion then you are wrong and must be stopped...
 - We live in a community where many are very hardened towards the Gospel...
 - Because they have been indoctrinated in a lifetime of traditions and superstitions...
 - And they are proud and think 'religion' is enough to get them into heaven...
 - When you dare to challenge those beliefs you immediately come under fire...
- o 2nd When it pleased God Jesus revealed Himself to Paul... vs. 15-16...
 - Paul did not choose God God choose Paul...
 - Paul recognized that God who had brought him into the world (birth)...
 - Was also the one who when in God's timing saved Paul by His GRACE!
 - And called Paul to be an Apostle to the Gentiles Acts 9:15...
 - We are rarely patient when it comes to people believing in Jesus...
 - We see people stuck in dead religion following empty traditions...
 - Showing up to church only once a year on Easter to kiss the feet of Jesus...
 - Putting their faith in wood and plastic representations of 'the saints'
 - We want slap them make them believe in Jesus now! Today!
 - But you cannot force someone to see Jesus only God can open their eyes...
 - Just as Jesus met Saul on the road 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me'...
 - Paul believed in his religion thought it was right to persecute 'The Church'...
 - So Jesus blinded Saul to show him he was spiritually blind an open his eyes...
 - **John 9:39** "I have come to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind."
 - Those who are religious think they are right because they cannot see the truth...
 - You convince a blind man that he is seeing things the wrong way...
 - Until you first help him to see that he is blind...
 - Those who cling to their religion need to first see their religion cannot save them...
 - Then they will be willing to open their eyes and look to Jesus!
- o 3rd After Paul's conversion he did not immediately go to Jerusalem... vs. 17-19
 - Paul was saved in the city of Damascus...
 - After his conversion went into Arabia (to the west) for three years...
 - He then returned to Damascus for a second time Acts 9:23-26...
 - The point being Paul was not discipled or taught by any of the other Apostles...
 - It was Jesus who taught him and discipled him in the Word...
 - Often we get the mistaken idea we are not able to understand God's Word...
 - We need to have someone interpret it for us explain the Word to us...
 - There are plenty of people who are willing to tell us 'what the Bible means'...
 - But the question is are they right or is it just their opinion...

- God has given each of us His Holy Spirit He is the one to teach us...
- **John 14:26** "But when the Father sends the Counselor as my representative—and by the Counselor I mean the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you."
- We can be absolutely certain that what the Holy Spirit gives us it the truth!
- Paul did eventually try to meet with the disciples in Jerusalem Acts 9:26-28
 - But they would not meet with Saul though because they were afraid of him...
 - They did believe that the man who had hunted them to death had changed...
 - But although everyone else feared Saul Barnabus believed he had changed...
 - Barnabus did not see Paul's past only what Jesus had done in his life...
 - In religion what we do is who we are we are defined by our actions...
 - But in Jesus we are also not defined by actions we are simply defined by Christ!
 - **II Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
- Not all of the disciples were willing to receive Saul...
 - Paul only up spending fifteen days with Peter / and saw James (Jesus ½ brother)...
 - We need to learn that not everyone will believe we have changed either...
 - The only thing that matters is that Jesus has made us a new creation in Him...
- 3^{RD} The churches reaction to Paul's salvation... vs. 20-24
 - o After Jerusalem Paul traveled into Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus Paul's home town)...
 - Paul did not spend much time in Jerusalem with the Apostles...
 - He was immediately called out by God to begin the work of spreading the Gospel...
 - Paul did not need anyone to qualify him for ministry God had prepared him...
 - If you want to teach a Bible study or serve God in any way...
 - People tend to look for the diploma on the wall the recognition of a religion...
 - But the proof of the calling of God is not in the commendation of men...
 - I know a lot of men who have the 'pastoral degree' who are not pastors...
 - And I know a lot of men who have no degree no diplomas who are pastors!
 - The calling of God is shown through the work of God through someone's life!
 - o No one from the churches of Judea even saw Paul's face...
 - They only heard about his conversion God saved a man who hated the church...
 - The fruit from Paul's life was obvious and all the saints glorified God for it...
 - It is not very difficult to figure out what purpose/calling God has on your life...
 - All we really need to do is look at how God is using us where is the fruit...
 - If you are called to kids you will enjoy and be good with them...
 - If you are called to be a teacher then you will enjoy and be good at teaching...
 - It will not just be you who recognize the calling it will be obvious to everyone!