

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Not Sent from Men”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 1:1-2

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 7.** I have titled today’s message *“Not Sent from Men.”*
-) I officially became the pastor of this church on 1/27/08. I had already been preaching here for a few months. So, today I officially begin my 13th year here as your pastor. And today will be a day of a few major changes more for me than for you.
-) **SLIDE 8.** Since I was saved in 1994, I have always used an NIV translation Bible in church. After almost 26 years, that is changing. Starting today, I will be reading out of an NASB (The New American Standard) translation Bible. This will now be my #1 Bible for preaching and for Sunday school.
-) Why the change? I use this exact NASB for my study and research at home. Now I can remain consistent from home to here. The NASB is a literal Hebrew/Greek translation, instead of the NIV which is a dynamic equivalent translation. The text will be more accurate with the original manuscripts.
-) That’s my first major change. The second is this.
-) **SLIDE 9.** There are 3 common preaching styles. The first style is called **SPRINGBOARD** preaching. Springboard preaching is when a preacher takes a verse or verses from the Bible and then preaches from that text. The UMC primarily uses this method. A UMC pastor has a lectionary that gives him 4 different Scripture readings for a Sunday. The pastor then chooses, from these four, the Scripture verse he feels he needs to preach on.

-) One problem with springboard preaching is that there is no continuity from week-to-week on any given subject matter. It's like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.
-) **SLIDE 10.** The second style of preaching is called **TOPICAL** preaching. Topical preaching means the preacher chooses a topic and then spends as many weeks as necessary preaching on that topic. For the past 12 years I have primarily been a topical preacher. Charles Stanley is a topical preacher. David Jeremiah is a topical preacher. That's reassuring to know I am in good company.
-) One problem with topical preaching is that the preacher will usually choose the topics he wants to preach on. Personally, I do try to cover as much as possible on any one topic, but I will still be biased to speak on certain topics.
-) **SLIDE 11.** The third style of preaching is called **EXPOSITORY** preaching. Expository preaching is when you take a book of the Bible and go down verse-by-verse and explain or expound as much about each passage or each section of that Scripture as possible. Webster defines EXPOUND as: *"to explain by setting forth in careful and often elaborate detail."*
-) Charles Spurgeon, John MacArthur, and RC Sproul are three among many preachers who exposit the Scriptures. Most of the great preachers of the Reformation and great preachers over the past 500 years were expository preachers.
-) In Sunday school I exposited the Gospel Of JOHN. Six years.
-) Expository preaching requires a lot of time and research to do the study correctly. But expository preaching is, by far, the best style of preaching. When done correctly, the preacher will cover virtually every topic in the Bible. How is that? Because as you go through the books of the Bible, you will eventually get to every topic.

-) With that said, today I begin the next major change in my position here at BGCC. Today I will begin my adventure at expository preaching, and we will begin with the Book of GALATIANS.
-) I am challenging myself to do this. I will make my best attempt to explain as much as I can the details and applications of all six chapters of this wonderful New Testament epistle. Hopefully. I will leave no stone unturned.
-) Why the Book of GALATIANS? This was one of the NT books that guided the mind of Martin Luther and how mankind needs to look at God's plan of salvation. And we all know that Martin Luther was the leader of the Protestant Reformation. That is very important history. And history needs to be remembered.
-) It took John MacArthur 42 messages to get through the Book of GALATIANS. How long will it take me? As long as it takes. But when completed, we will know so much more about the truths revealed in this 6-chapter book.
-) Ready? Let's begin with some basic information.
-) Who wrote the Book of GALATIANS? We find that answer in verse 1. The apostle Paul wrote this book. We should all know who Paul is. What are some general facts we need to know about this man?
-) **SLIDE 12.** He was born in Tarsus in Cilicia (ACTS 21:39). His Hebrew name was SAUL and his Greek name was PAUL. He was from the tribe of Benjamin (PHIL 3:5). He was a Roman citizen (ACTS 16:37). He studied under the rabbi Gamaliel (ACTS 22:3). He was a Pharisee (ACTS 23:6).
-) **SLIDE 13.** Once persecuted the church (ACTS 22:4). Converted to Christianity by Jesus on his way to Damascus (ACTS 9:3-19). Made 3 missionary journeys throughout the Mediterranean world (ACTS 9-28). Died as a martyr around 65AD (2 TIM 4:6).

-) At the beginning of Paul's ministry, he would go from town to town speaking at the local synagogue. That means he was primarily speaking to fellow Jews, telling them that their long-awaited Messiah had arrived, and His name is Jesus.
-) In the Book of ACTS 13:44-52, Paul and Barnabas are speaking to the Jews in Pisidian Antioch about Christ. The Jews started to contradict what Paul and Barnabas were teaching and started to riot against them. That is when Paul announced that he would no longer be taking the gospel to the Jewish people. He would be taking the gospel to the Gentiles.
-) **SLIDE 14.** Paul's missionary journeys took him mostly through Gentile territory. Occasionally he would travel back to Jerusalem. But one of those territories on his missionary journeys was an area (not a city) called Galatia. This area is now modern-day Turkey.
-) **SLIDE 15.** The four main cities he visited in Galatia were Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (ACTS 13:14 – 14:23).
-) That is some background information on the author of this book (the apostle Paul), and a geographical image of where these churches are located (Galatia). Now let's dig into today's text.
-) The main thrust of this letter to the churches in Galatia (at least the first four chapters) is to warn the people of false teachers and their false doctrine. One credential that carried a lot of weight at that time was if a teacher claimed to be an apostle.
-) Paul begins this letter by calling himself an apostle. What is an apostle? In its simplest terms, it means one who is sent. Apostles can be broken down into two groups; 1) The first being the 12 apostles as chosen by Jesus and 2) those others (such as Barnabas) who were sent.
-) But let's get more in depth as to why this is critical that Paul identifies himself as an apostle of the chosen kind.

-) There were 12 apostles who were unique. It was these twelve apostles who were the foundation of the church—with Jesus being the cornerstone (EPH 2:20) (Matthias vs Paul).
-) **SLIDE 16**. The qualifications of this type of unique apostle were: (1) to have been a witness of the resurrected Christ (1 Corinthians 9:1), (2) to have been explicitly chosen by the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:15), and (3) to have the ability to perform signs and wonders (Acts 2:43; 2 Corinthians 12:12).
-) The responsibility of the twelve apostles, laying the foundation of the church, would also argue for their uniqueness. Two thousand years later, we no longer work on the foundation. Today we work on the building.
-) In the very first verse of this Book Paul tells his audience (and us) of his credentials. He is an apostle. Did he witness the resurrected Christ? Yes, on the road to Damascus in ACTS 9:5 he had a personal visit from Jesus. Was he chosen by the Holy Spirit? Yes, in ACTS 9:15 we are told that Paul was a chosen instrument by God to bear the name of Jesus before the Gentiles. Could he perform signs and wonders? Yes. One example is in ACTS 20:10 when he raised Eutychus back to life after he fell out a third-story window because he fell asleep while Paul was preaching.
-) This unique apostleship is critical because we know that Paul was personally chosen and sent by God to do His work. And that is why Paul writes that he was not sent by men. He wasn't one of those other lesser apostles (another man who was sent by another man) or even one of the false teachers that they had encountered and bought into.
-) And because of these credentials, the people at the churches in Galatia (and us) need to take heed as to what this man writes and instructs. The apostles built the foundation of the church on truth. And that is important.

-) One last point. In his opening line of this letter (v1), he makes sure he mentions the Resurrection—one of the foundational truths of Christianity. That God the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead. If you don't believe that, you have no hope.
-) As we go through and study the Book of GALATIANS, we may find that many sermons will overlap in content. And that's OK. We want to be thorough. We don't want to miss anything. I want to exposit the Scriptures. What does that mean again? To exposit means to expound; to explain by setting forth in careful and often elaborate detail.
-) The truth isn't always easy, but it does matter. And the truth will set you free!

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