

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“A Revelation to Paul”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 1:11-12

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 7**. We are in an expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #6. I have titled today’s message *“A Revelation to Paul.”*
-) We know that this letter written by the apostle Paul to the churches in Galatia was written within five years from the time these churches were founded by him. Now something has gone wrong. False teachers are introducing false gospels. This is a serious situation.
-) This letter was written by Paul so that the people in these churches could get back on the right course with the right gospel, and to squash out any error being taught.
-) But to do that, Paul must defend his calling and his ministry. After all, he’s introducing a new teaching and a new path of salvation. What makes him superior to any other teacher? Why should these people listen to him over another?
-) We must remember that the people in these churches have only known one thing all their lives—and that would be Judaism and the Mosaic Law. And now here’s Paul bringing a new teaching. Is it true? How could they be sure?
-) And how can we be sure of the authority of the words of Paul? Did you know that there are those today who want to dismiss some of the teachings of Paul? Not all of them. Just the ones they disagree with particularly in 21st century American culture.

-) This morning I want to cover four arguments people give today for wanting to dismiss some (all) of the teachings of Paul. Let's look at their claims and then compare that to Scripture.
-) **SLIDE 8.** Pauls' words have no **AUTHORITY**. Only the words of Jesus have **AUTHORITY**. This is the cry of the LGBTQ movement who insist that if Jesus said nothing about homosexual relationships, then it must be OK. Again, they want to justify their belief system. Let's look at our text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** *"For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ."*
-) **SLIDE 10.** We began this study of the Book of GALATIANS back on 2/2/2020. In that message I stressed the importance of what it meant for Paul to be considered an apostle. He was not sent from men or by men to do this ministry work. No. Paul was sent by Jesus Christ (v1).
-) **SLIDE 9.** He takes that commission one step further in verse 12. He was not only sent by Jesus Christ (v1), he received the gospel and his teachings directly from Jesus Christ. It's not that Paul sat down under Peter or James or any other apostle or disciple and went to Bible study every Wednesday night. He had Bible study, if you will, with Jesus Himself.
-) We don't know exactly when or where Paul received this revelatory teaching from Jesus. We know it was after his Damascus Road experience. Most theologians believe it was when Paul was blinded for three days when the Lord Jesus revealed His gospel of grace and other teachings to Paul.
-) **SLIDE 11.** When and where is not important. The fact that He did is. Why? Because if verse 12 is true, then what Paul writes in all his letters is as if Jesus Himself was **WRITING** it. And that gives all the words of the apostle Paul authority.

-) Listen. The message of Jesus Christ was one of salvation; He came to seek and save that which is lost. Sure, He had other teachings too. But not everything that Jesus taught was covered in the four gospels.
-) But Jesus made sure the foundational teachings of the church were left in capable hands. When you get knocked off your horse and you get a personal vision from Jesus and then He blinds you and gives you divine revelation on truth, I say that carries a lot of weight.
-) We have another verse which confirms this truth. In 1COR 14, Paul is saying that the women should not teach in church. They must remain silent. He knows that what he just taught would not go over well with the people. This teaching does not go over very well in 21st century America either. But let's look at what he writes in verses 36 through 38 of chapter 14.
-) **SLIDE 12.** *“Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only? If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment. But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.”*
-) Folks, that's pretty harsh. We want to dismiss that command because we know better than the Lord's commandment? Not a position I would want to be in. He goes on to say that if we do not recognize this command, then we are not to be recognized. Recognized as what? As one who has authority.
-) Did you know that 26% of pulpits today are occupied by women? Folks, that's not women's liberation. That is a direct violation of the Word of God.
-) We could just stop right here and not even cover the next three arguments by those who want to dismiss some of Paul's teachings. Verse 1 and verse 12 from GALATIANS 1 should be sufficient. But let's move on.

-) **SLIDE 13.** Paul's writings only **APPLY** to one specific church or person, and only for that time and situation. In other words, for instance, the Book of 1 CORINTHIANS only applies to the people at the church in Corinth. The Book of TITUS only applies to Titus and the people at the church on the island of Crete. And what is written only applies to that church at that time and it is not meant for us today.
-) **SLIDE 14.** The apostle Paul wrote 13 of the 27 books in the NT. He wrote ROMANS, 1 & 2 CORINTHIANS, GALATIANS, EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, 1 & 2 THESS, 1 & 2 TIMOTHY, TITUS, and PHILEMON.
-) These 13 letters are placed in this book that we call the Bible. We also call this what? The Word of God. Inspired by God. Revealed to Paul through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
-) Every recipient of his letters, be it a church or an individual, had different issues that needed to be addressed. And we can read these 13 letters and see that all his letters include teaching, reproof, correction, and training to that church or individual.
-) **SLIDE 15.** This supports 2TIM 3:16-17 which says, "*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*"
-) But what needed to be addressed in Corinth may not have been needed to be addressed in Galatia. What needed to be addressed to Philemon may not have been needed to be addressed to Titus.
-) But if we are to hold to the truth of 2TIM 3:16-17, then everything that was written by all the NT writers of God's Word will apply to all the churches, to all Christians, for all times. God's Word does not have a shelf life. And we need to understand this.

-) **SLIDE 16.** In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he says this in 4:16-17: "*Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me. For this reason, I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.*"
-) It's pretty clear. Except for cultural exceptions (such as head coverings which was a sign of headship between men and women at that time in that culture – 9/9/2012), what Paul taught in one church was the same thing he taught in the next church, and it all applies to us today.
-) Just because his teaching, reproof, correction, and training did not make it into a letter to a certain church did not mean other churches didn't need to hear the full counsel of God too. And according to 1COR 4:16-17 they did.
-) And we need to remember that the apostle Paul is under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as he is penning these letters. And here we are today, the recipients of all these writings, so we too can be under the same training, the reproof, the correction, and the training in righteousness.
-) **SLIDE 17.** When Paul uses the words "*I say*" or "*I,*" that is Paul speaking and not the **LORD**. In other words when Paul uses the words "*I say,*" then what comes after that is not authoritative. It's only Paul giving his uninspired 2 cents worth.
-) The arguments by those people who want to dismiss the words of Paul are becoming weaker. And I have to repeat what I said earlier—some people just don't like what the Word of God says. And will go as far as to say that these same people are more American than what they are Biblical.
-) **SLIDE 18.** Let's look at GALATIANS 1:9. "*As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!*"

-) Probably 99.999% of Christians would agree with that verse and claim it is inspired by God. But there it is. “/ say.” I will say no more about this argument. The “/ say” argument holds no weight.
-) **SLIDE 19.** The **ENDS** justify the **MEANS**. I did something contrary to the Word of God, but it had a good ending. So, it must be OK, which means the Word of God must be either no longer valid or it’s contradictory.
-) **SLIDE 20.** We would all agree that sexual immorality is contrary to the Word of God. Right? Read GAL 5:19-21. We would all agree that adultery is under the umbrella of sexual immorality. Tell story of Darrell & Penny.
-) “*God brought us together.*” No. God did not bring you together. God cannot tempt you or cause you to sin. Your own evil desires brought you together. Even though they may now be living happily ever after, does not justify their act of adultery. It is still wrong in the eyes of the Lord. The ends do not justify the means.
-) **SLIDE 21.** ROMANS 3:7-8. “*But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner? And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), ‘Let us do evil that good may come’? Their condemnation is just.*”
-) **SLIDE 22.** ROMANS 6:1-2. “*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*”
-) In other words, looking at these 2 verses, I will sin, I will do something contrary to the Word of God, so that good may come or grace shall increase. In both situations, Paul condemns such actions. The ends do not justify the means.
-) So, there you have the four arguments some will use to dismiss one or some or all of the writings of the apostle Paul.

-) But we must take heed of this one important verse, GAL 1:12:
“For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” If we deny Paul’s words, we deny the teaching revealed to Paul through Jesus Christ. Folks, that’s pretty serious.
-) The truth isn’t always easy, but it does matter. And the truth will set you free!

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