

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“*Until*”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 2:11-14

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** We continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #12. I have titled today’s message “*Until.*”
-) **SLIDE 10.** The setting of today’s text is in a city called Antioch. There are two cities named “*Antioch*” that are mentioned in the Bible. One of them is in Pisidia of Galatia. This city, along with Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, were the recipients of this Book of GALATIANS.
-) But this is not the Antioch of today’s text. That Antioch would be here in Syria. This city of Antioch was very large and the Roman capital city of Syria. This was the first place mentioned in the Bible (ACTS 11) where Jews preached the gospel message to Gentiles.
-) **SLIDE 11.** This is also the first place where the followers of Jesus were called Christians. With that history and geography behind us, let’s move on.
-) It appears that two of the greatest pillars of the church, Peter, and Paul, were at odds with each other. And it appears Peter is caught red-handed being a hypocrite.
-) **SLIDE 12.** Webster defines hypocrisy as: “*The behavior of people who do things that they tell other people not to do.*” This presents a real problem for me because I stand up here every Sunday telling you what to do and not to do and I find myself not being able to live up to all those standards.

-) What was so hypocritical about what Peter (Cephas) was doing? And was it a fair accusation from Paul? Let's look at our text and the accusation set forth by Paul.
-) **SLIDE 13**. Read v14. That's the accusation. Hypocrisy: "*The behavior of people who do things that they tell other people not to do.*" Peter could live like the Gentiles, but once certain people show up, the Gentiles must now conform to be like the Jew. And that is hypocrisy.
-) First, a little background on Peter. In a sermon I spoke on 5/5/19, I said Peter was proud, brash, outspoken, impetuous, volatile, inquisitive, and a coward. But he also had his moments of being extremely bold for Jesus. Let's look at such boldness from the Book of ACTS.
-) **SLIDE 14**. Read. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 15**. Read. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 16**. Read. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 17**. Read. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 18**. Read. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 19**. Read. Explain.
-) In these verses from the Book of ACTS, we see a very brave and bold Peter standing up for the name of Jesus. He is even willing to be imprisoned, flogged, and even death for the sake of His Lord and Savior. Remember that.
-) **SLIDE 20**. Let's fast forward to ACTS 10. Read. God was telling Peter, through this vision, that the unclean (Gentiles) are now clean. So, what does Peter do? He goes to the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion living in Caesarea.
-) **SLIDE 21**. Read. Peter explains to this Gentile Roman centurion that God has made all men clean—both Jew and Gentile.

-) **SLIDE 22.** Conclusion about Peter. 1) from last week Peter gave Paul the “*right hand of fellowship*” in that no parts of the Mosaic Law could not be imposed on a new convert. 2) We know Peter can be extremely bold for his faith and his Savior. 3) Peter no longer has any problems with associating with Gentiles (Cornelius story).
-) **SLIDE 23.** A little more background information. Back in ACTS 11:1-3, immediately after Peter returns to Jerusalem from the house of Cornelius, this conversation transpires. Read. So, Peter explains his vision and his visit with Cornelius.
-) **SLIDE 24.** And this is the conclusion from that conversation. Looks like everything is settled.
-) But what has now happened to Peter in today’s text? This brave and bold Peter was fine living in the liberty and freedom in Christ like the Gentiles, associating and eating with Gentiles like he did Cornelius and his family in ACTS 10 (even stayed with Cornelius for a few days), and he knew that no parts of the Mosaic Law could not be imposed on a new convert. Peter had it right.
-) **SLIDE 25.** UNTIL his Jewish circumcision friends show up. And once they arrived, Peter no longer wanted to associate with the Gentiles. This brave and bold man, Peter, who was flogged and would die for his Savior, is now afraid of a few of his Jewish buddies. Explain.
-) This doesn’t sound like us, does it? O yes, we are high and mighty and have no fear of persecution or even death from the world. I am this excellent Christian. UNTIL we are surrounded by our friends who don’t quite share the same belief system we do. Then we cave in under the pressure.
-) We want to “*fit in*” and be one of the guys (one of the girls) and not make waves in the office or family. Why?

-) Because what we really love and really desire is acceptance from other people. Whatever you do, don't rock the boat baby. Don't tip the boat over.
-) What about our Biblical standards? Let's put them on the back burner for just a little while. Can't I be just like the world and love the world for this one moment? These people are my friends, and I don't want to offend them by taking a different stand than they do. God understands.
-) So, what we are saying is this: "*I am an excellent Christian until ...*" Until what? You fill in the blank. Until I go golfing with my buddies. Until I go to work. Until I have friends over the house to watch the game. Until I go out to dinner with those other two couples. Until we go on vacation and make new friends.
-) Until I go vote this November because I'd rather side with the world and be pro-abortion and pro-LGBTQ because that's what all my closest friends believe and I have to be around these people every day and I certainly don't want to be known as the fish that swims in the opposite direction.
-) Are we going to take a stand for God and His Word or not? How many "*until*" moments will we have in our lives when we compromise because it is just easier and safer and more popular to do so?
-) Mike, you don't understand. I have to be around my family, or I have to be around these certain people all the time. If I don't become like them, then I'm an outcast. I'll be rejected. They won't like me. I might even lose my job.
-) **SLIDE 26-27.** Where in the Bible does it say that Christians will be accepted by everybody? It doesn't. Jesus says just the opposite. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 28.** Paul confirms this in GALATIANS 1:10. Read.
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-) When the “*until*” moment comes into your everyday life (and it will), what will your response be? Will you be like Peter who was brave and bold until his circumcision friends showed up then he caved in under the pressure from these others who he would rather please? Or will you stand firm in your faith and choose to please God over pleasing men?
-) Don't be a hypocrite like Peter was in today's text. That is not what a true and excellent Christian does.
-) Next week we will look at Paul's response to Peter's hypocrisy.
-) The truth isn't always easy, but it does matter. And it will set you free!

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