

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Opposing a False Gospel”

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 #13. I have titled today’s message *“Opposing a False Gospel.”*
-) **SLIDE 10**. Our text today places us in a city called Antioch. The number of Gentile converts is climbing. Read. Two men have come from Cyprus and Cyrene preaching the gospel. We don’t know who these two men are, but we do know it was not Paul or Barnabas. A good thing is happening in Antioch, and Paul, once he arrives, wants to keep it that way.
-) We saw in last week’s lesson that Peter is among this Gentile revival. And he has no problem associating with the Gentiles until his friends from the Jewish circumcision group show up. Now Peter has become a hypocrite. How? He sides with his Jewish buddies and now wants to force the Gentiles to live like the Jews according to the Mosaic Law.
-) We don’t know exactly what was said or what was demanded of these Gentiles at Antioch once these particular Jews show up. But I could almost guarantee it involved circumcision. And when circumcision is imposed on a new convert claiming it is necessary for salvation, that is a false gospel.
-) **SLIDE 11**. And as you can see from GALATIANS 2:14, Paul is extremely concerned about the truth of the gospel. Read.
-) **SLIDE 12**. The truth of the **GOSPEL** is so important that Paul included his encounter with Peter in this letter to the Galatians.

-) Why? Because some things are worth mentioning. Paul wanted the recipients of this book (GALATIANS) to know and understand the importance of getting the gospel right. Even if it means rebuking Peter, a pillar of the church, the gospel must be right. A false gospel saves no one. We are talking about the eternity of souls here. And that's important.
-) **SLIDE 13.** We know from our text that Paul opposes Peter to his face. Explain pic. Was it a fair accusation from Paul? Will some people look at this opposition and say that Paul was being too judgmental?
-) **SLIDE 14.** Which leads us to three questions we must ask and answer today. 1) Doesn't Jesus say, "*Do not judge?*" 2) If we are to judge, then what is the proper way to do that? 3) Is it right to judge those in church authority? Let's look at Scripture and get a Biblical perspective on judging.
-) If there is a word or a procedure that is terribly misunderstood today, especially in today's church, it is judgment and judging. In today's world, many people, including Christians, do not want to hear or get involved in judgment.
-) But it's rather obvious from today's Scripture text that Paul is judging Peter. And rightfully so.
-) **SLIDE 15.** The word judgment has many possible definitions. And I want to make sure, for the sake of this message, that we know which one I am using. The Webster definition I want to use is this one: "*A formal utterance of an authoritative opinion.*"
-) This morning we will go to God's Word and see what God has to say about judgment. To use Webster's definition: His Word will be the formal utterance of the only authoritative truth.
-) The words "*judging*" and "*judgment*" are used about 220 times in the OT alone. (145 in NT) The Bible makes it very clear that God is just, and His judgments are always right.
-) **SLIDE 16.** PSALM 7:11.

-) **SLIDE 17.** King David, in PSALM 51, those powerful words he wrote after confronted by the prophet Nathan.
-) God has every right to judge. He has every right to be the final authority on everything. And His judgments are always right.
-) OK. We understand God will always be right in His judgments. But what about us? What about Christians? We are not perfect like God. Let's turn to God's Word for some answers.
-) **SLIDE 18.** MATTHEW 7:1-5, those verses everyone likes to use but few understand. Read. What do most people like to do? Stop after the first sentence. It's amazing how so many non-Christians like to use this verse. "*Don't you judge me.*" "*Doesn't your Bible teach people not to judge?*" Let's learn what these verses are saying so we understand them correctly.
-) What are the first three rules of Scripture interpretation? MATT 7:1-5 must be interpreted in context. You cannot stop after the first sentence. Jesus is simply saying that you will be judged according to how you judge others.
-) **SLIDE 19.** So, I ask. What standard of measure are we using to judge? Do we base our judgments on our measure, our opinion, and our authority? I hope not. Our measure and our opinion and our authority are fallen and corrupt.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Our judgment must be based on an incorruptible source. In JOHN 7:24 Jesus tells us to make a righteous judgment. The only righteous judgment is one based on the only righteous source, and that would be the Bible.
-) **SLIDE 21.** Read HEBREWS 4:12.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Judgment must be based on God's **WORD.** We must agree that judgment cannot be based on my opinion or your opinion or anyone's opinion.

-) Judgment must be based on the truth of God's Word—the Bible—the formal utterance of the only authoritative truth. That is the measure we use.
-) **SLIDE 23.** Is Paul basing his judgment on the Word of God? Yes. Remember he was personally trained by Jesus himself for three years. He was not sent from men but from God.
-) **SLIDE 24.** MATTHEW 7:3-5.
-) **SLIDE 25.** We must judge **OURSELVES** before we judge someone else. Why? Because God does not want us to be hypocritical. Give example.
-) Did Paul judge himself before he opposed Peter? I'm sure he did. The issue here is concerning false gospels. There would be no way Paul would ever preach a false gospel. That's why he could confront Peter and with a clear conscience rebuke him face to face concerning his hypocrisy.
-) **SLIDE 26.** Read 1PETER 4:17.
-) **SLIDE 27.** Judgment begins with the **HOUSEHOLD** of God. What is the household of God? Us. Church. Judgment begins here. This lines up with what Paul says in 1COR 5.
-) **SLIDE 28.** Read 1 CORINTHIANS 5:12-13. This lines up with what we just covered from 1PETER.
-) **SLIDE 29.** We are to judge those **INSIDE** the church. Is Paul right in his opposition of Peter? Are not both Paul and Peter members of the household of God and inside the church?
-) Why do we judge only those inside the church?
-) **SLIDE 30.** 1 CORINTHIANS 5:6. Explain situation. Bad behavior becomes contagious. *"If he's doing it and getting away with it, then I can do it too."*
-) **SLIDE 31.** Judgment is used for the purpose of keeping the church **PURE**. Did Paul want the church to be pure?

-) Absolutely! He did not want Peter to be proclaiming a false gospel to the unsaved and jeopardize them coming to Christ. Remember, a false gospel doesn't save anyone.
-) **SLIDE 32.** MATT 18:15. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 33.** Judgment is used for the purpose of **RESTORING** the believer. Paul did not want Peter continuing to proliferate a false gospel. He wanted to set Peter straight and get the gospel right. I'll say it again. It's important we get the gospel right.
-) Every Christian should welcome God's Word testing them, convicting them, judging them—all for the purpose of refining them and keeping the church pure. And in the end judgment, when executed properly, will make us more Christ-like.
-) **SLIDE 34.** One last time. Let's review our questions.
-) I am convinced that the church is in the sad condition it is in because Christians have failed to stand up and judge false doctrine. Paul had no problems with judging false doctrine. And neither should we.
-) Next week we start digging into the truth of the gospel.
-) The truth isn't always easy, but it does matter. And it will set you free!

11/1/2020 at Beech Grove Christian Church