

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“I Forewarn You”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 5:19-21

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8**. Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #39. I have titled today’s message *“I Forewarn You”* (v21).
-) The Bible is a balance between bad news and good news. The bad news is every human being is a sinner bound for the pits of hell. The good news is there is a plan of salvation developed by a very loving God to save us from our sinful selves.
-) And in every Christian church around the world a balance needs to be preached of the bad news and the good news. There needs to be a balance preached between law and grace. There needs to be a balance preached between hell, fire, and brimstone and the love of God.
-) There needs to be preached the understanding of the nature of mankind and the nature of God. There needs to be preached that every human being is a sinner and that’s why we all need a Savior.
-) **SLIDE 9**. 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2. Paul wrote to his protégé Timothy, who was the elder in Ephesus, what is basically the benchmark for preaching. Correct, rebuke, encourage. Here Paul is telling Timothy the balance in the preaching.
-) **SLIDE 10**. Read definitions. Correction is the always the desired end result of preaching. Rebuking is the negative way to do that and encouraging is the positive way to do that.

-) **SLIDE 11.** A wrong behavior or belief must be corrected. How did Paul do this? ACTS 20:26-27.
-) **SLIDE 12.** Correction can only be achieved by preaching the whole **COUNSEL** of God.
-) Those are the Biblical standards for preaching. But what happens when that balance of preaching becomes skewed more to one side than the other?
-) With all the media and social media available to us today, it's very obvious that the church, especially here in America, has become skewed and imbalanced in what they teach and what they preach. I want to ask and answer three obvious questions here this morning.
-) **SLIDE 13.** What is the imbalance in the church today? How did the church get this way? What are the implications of imbalanced preaching?
-) **SLIDE 14.** The imbalance in the church today includes only the **LOVE** of God and eliminates the **WRATH** of God. The only correction coming from the pulpit is encouragement and never any rebuking. Here's what you'll hear. "*God loves you. God loves you. God loves you just the way you are.*"
-) It's actually the "*Touched by an Angel*" mentality. Every week Monica would say that to someone.
-) If that is so, then why are unrepentant sinners who scoff at the Word of God and curse the authority of God, sent to an eternity in the pits of hell where the fire is never quenched? Because He loves them just the way they are? Wake up people.
-) God does not love their sin. And that is a very huge imbalance in the church today. Let's just accept everyone for whatever lifestyle they lead, and let's not judge them (because the Bible tells us not to judge), and let's be tolerant of their sin, and let's place them in leadership positions within the church, and let's make sure we tell them that God loves them.

-) **SLIDE 15.** Oprah / Joel Osteen clip. Granted, this is not in a church. But when America's favorite pastor goes on Oprah and tells you just how good you really are, then the people believe because it must be from God. Right?
-) This is not the gospel. It is today's version of Robert Schuller's self-esteem gospel. It's all about lifting up self. And may I remind everyone in here, that when you put an adjective in front of the word "*gospel*" you have a false gospel and a false gospel never saved anyone.
-) BGCC, we are imbalanced so far down this side (God loves you), that this other side is never mentioned anymore. Well, the apostle Paul had no problem giving the churches at Galatia (or the people in any of his letters) a dose of the negative.
-) **SLIDE 16.** GALATIANS 5:21. Twice in today's Scripture reading we see where Paul not only warns the people in the churches at Galatia of this issue concerning the deeds of the flesh but has already warned them of this issue. More than likely the previous warning was on his first visit there when these churches were started five years prior.
-) Folks, if we don't warn the people about their sin, they will never understand why they need a Savior.
-) **SLIDE 17.** Q#2. How did the church get this way? The church got this way by becoming more like the **CULTURE** instead of standing on the Word of God.
-) Our 21st century American society has become one that demands everyone be politically correct and, whatever you do, do not offend anybody. Right? And this has filtered over into the church. The cry of the church has now become: "*Don't say anything offensive that will drive them away.*"
-) In the 1990s, the church bought into something called pragmatism.

-) Pragmatism basically says that church ministry is defined by the people and not the Bible. The people will tell you what they want. And in return, the church will give them what they want.
-) The truth now becomes whatever works because you want the people to keep on coming back. Let's change the preaching and the message to suit the desires of the people attending. It's non-offensive.
-) And this ideology quickly led to what is called the "*Seeker Sensitive*" movement which began in the 1990s. So, what does the seeker-sensitive church of today do? They tell the people that God loves them. It's safe, it's true, and it's not offensive. It's the church of Joel Osteen and others.
-) Paul's message was in sharp contrast to the culture. And it was not politically correct. It hurt people's feelings. Let's look at some of the things he has already said to the Galatians.
-) **SLIDE 18**. GAL 1:9. Let him be accursed? May he go to hell? Paul, you can't talk like that. People aren't going to like you if you keep talking like that.
-) **SLIDE 19**. GAL 2:14. Paul is rebuking Peter (Cephas)? Didn't Paul think that Peter might be offended especially in front of all his Jewish friends?
-) **SLIDE 20**. GAL 3:1. He calls the Galatians fools. You can't do that today. That's hate speech. You can be arrested if you call the wrong group of people names like that.
-) **SLIDE 21**. GAL 5:19-21. Paul, are you judging me? What I do in my private life is none of your business.
-) And that's what the church of today has become. They are afraid of offending people with the Word of God because the culture has taught us not to do that. Let's avoid confrontation at all costs and just tell people how much God loves them. No one will ever be offended by that. Folks, the more we become like the culture, the less we become a church.

-) **SLIDE 22**. Q#3. What are the implications of imbalanced preaching? There are many. But the most important implication of imbalanced preaching is that lost souls will remain **LOST**.
-) **SLIDE 23**. ROMANS 10:17. What is the Word of Christ? The gospel. What is the gospel? It's a combination and a balance of bad news and good news. A person will never understand their need of a Savior (the good news) until they recognize their own sinfulness and destination hell (the bad news).
-) Hearing and believing an incomplete gospel is just as deadly as hearing and believing a false gospel. An incomplete gospel never saved anyone. You must hear the bad with the good.
-) **SLIDE 24**. And that's why Paul has to use words of rebuke in this letter to the Galatians. He needs to warn them of the bad so they can better understand the good. He's needs to warn them that their behavior will be a reflection of their salvation or not. And if they continue to practice in their sinful ways, they are not saved and will not inherit the kingdom of God.
-) But Mike, these words are offensive and judgmental. Yes, they are. And if churches don't start preaching the rebuke part of the full counsel of God, good-intentioned people who have only been taught the love of God are going to end up in hell. Amen!
-) **SLIDE 25**. ACTS 20:26-27. Paul knew that all the people he came in contact with had heard the full counsel of God. The bad and the good. The rebuke and the encouragement. The blood (the eternity) of those souls was not on his hands.
-) But what about all those preachers and pastors and teachers who fail to proclaim the full counsel of God? What about those pastors, preachers, and teachers who only proclaim the love of God and never the sinfulness of man? I would not want to be those individuals when they enter into eternity.

-) I would not want to fall into the hands of the living God while He's questioning me on the content of my sermons as His representative.
-) "*Depart from Me, I never knew you*" will be words that many unsuspecting pastors will hear all because they would rather follow the culture and not offend anybody.
-) **SLIDE 26.** The robot on "*Lost in Space*" had no problem warning Will Robinson and the others of danger. As parents we have no problem warning our children of danger. Likewise, pastors should have no problem warning their flock about the dangers in this world which could keep them out of heaven.
-) We need a balance in preaching today. And the words "*I forewarn you!*" need to be said far more often. The eternity of lost souls is at stake here.

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