

Galatians

Chapter 5

Verse 10

1. Paul was a spiritual parent to the Galatians (**4:19**) and in this verse he gives them some fatherly encouragement. He says, "*I have confidence in you...*"
 - Paul commonly used this kind of positive approach when exhorting others. **Romans 15:14; Philippians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:4; Philemon 21**
2. But what was the basis of Paul's confidence in them? Notice, he says, "*...through the Lord...*"
 - Paul's confidence was never in the flesh, but was rooted in the power of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 3:3, 4:13**
 - Paul was confident that through Christ, the Galatians would begin thinking correctly and return to Paul's teaching of grace.
3. As the Galatians got their thinking straight, where would that leave the false teachers? They would be left to bear their judgment.
 - This word "judgment" is a strong word that is also translated in other places as damnation and condemnation.
4. Paul did not want the Galatians to pacify these false teachers. They had troubled the churches of Galatia by perverting the gospel of grace. **1:6-7; cf. Acts 15:22-24**
 - In **Acts 15:22-24**, notice that they troubled the churches "**with words.**"
 - As James said, the tongue "*is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*" **James 3:8**
 - The tongue is a fire (**James 3:6**) that can destroy a church and subvert a soul quicker than anything else.
5. Obviously Paul did not know the ring-leader of this false teaching. He ends the verse with, "*...whosoever he be.*"
 - At other times, Paul **did** identify false teachers by name. **1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 1:15, 2:17-18, 4:14-15**
 - Paul did not have to know this Jewish legalist personally to be able to rebuke his false teaching and desire that he be judged according to his false doctrine.

Verse 11

1. Paul had become the persecuted enemy in Galatia (**4:16**), and the false teachers had become the endeared darlings of the church.
2. This verse reveals the reason. The Jewish legalists were teaching a religious system of good works. This will not offend or make anybody angry, and false teachers know it. **Galatians 6:12**
 - There is money (**Titus 1:10-11**) and popularity (**2 Timothy 4:3**) to be found in the preaching of religion. It's a big money business! **2 Peter 2:1-3**
 - But there is no spiritual power to be found in the preaching of religious systems and religious achievement. **2 Timothy 3:5**
3. Where is spiritual power found to save souls and transform lives? It is found in the preaching of the cross. **1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 2:2-5**

- The preaching of the cross confronts people with the reality that they are sinners, alienated from God by wicked works. **Colossians 1:20-21**
 - The preaching of the cross proclaims that there is only one remedy for mankind's sin problem - the finished and completed work of Jesus Christ.
Romans 3:23-28, 5:15-21, 6:23
 - The preaching of the cross declares that there is nothing that mankind can **do** to atone for his sin. It calls on people to humble themselves and believe that Christ's death was for **their** sin and that it is completely sufficient to save them.
Ephesians 2:1-13
 - There is nothing that they can do but simply humble themselves before God, believing on His Son for forgiveness, righteousness and eternal life.
Romans 10:1-4, 9-13
 - The true message of the cross is an offence to the prideful, conceited, self-righteous heart. It does not massage the ego or tickle the ears - it calls for people to take their place with the ungodly (**Romans 5:6**) and sinners (**1 Timothy 1:15**) and confess that Christ's death was necessary for **their** sin.
 - This is what Paul means by "the offence of the cross."
4. Paul could have avoided a lot of suffering and persecution if he would have simply compromised and watered down the gospel of grace.
 5. What did Paul's preaching of the gospel get him?
 - He was thrown out of Antioch in Pisidia. **Acts 13:50**
 - He was assaulted at Iconium. **Acts 14:1-5**
 - He was stoned and left for dead at Lystra. **Acts 14:19**
 - He was beaten and jailed in Philippi. **Acts 16:20-24**
 - He was kicked out of Thessalonica. **Acts 17:1-9**
 - He was stalked at Berea and had to flee. **Acts 17:10-14**
 - He was mocked at Athens. **Acts 17:32**
 - He was opposed and his message blasphemed at Corinth. **Acts 18:6**
 - He was beaten by mob violence and arrested at Jerusalem. **Acts 21:27-33**
 - History tells us that he was finally beheaded for his refusal to compromise the gospel.
 6. But today, men are popular with the world and church alike, they sell millions of books, live luxurious life-styles, while supposedly preaching the gospel.
 7. I wonder what the difference is. I will allow the discerning believer to answer that question. **2 Timothy 3:8-17**
 8. But there is another thing that the preaching of Paul's gospel got him - changed lives, transformed by the power of God. This is why Paul would not water it down.
Romans 1:16