

## THE PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE PLEASERS

### Galatians 1:10-2:10

Why is there so much confusion about such good news?

If the good news is really good news, why do so many who claim to believe good news, struggle with guilt?

Gal. deals with issue of Christian *Liberty*.

*Are we really free?*

*Are we enjoying freedom in Christ?*

Paul writes church that starts on road of faith.

Now, they're trying to *live* to please God by a rule book

=> frustration, confusion & **guilt**

*It's impossible to reconcile salvation by faith with sanctification/living by law/rules.*

**IT'S ALL BASED ON FAITH,  
OR, IT'S ALL BASED ON LAW!**

*We're free because we're in Christ.*

We aren't under law—**ANY LAW!**

*Under any one's rules!*

From beginning to end, our relationship with God is based on work Christ did on the cross.

We **start** by faith

=>stop trying to earn way; rest in Him.

Now **WALK** that way.

**STOP** trying to earn your way!

**Defense of Paul's apostleship & message 1-2**

**Greeting 1:1-5 => His apostleship**

=> *Not sent as man's representative, but God's*

## **Surprise at their departure 1:6-9**

How we live is integral part of the gospel.

**"Gospel" of earn our way *isn't* "good news!"**

**It leads to greater frustration and failure**

**Because we're never good enough!**

**"Good news" => God provides what *we* could never accomplish!**

**Salvation *never* depends on our ability to please God. Never has, never will!**

We're complete because we're *in Him* (Col. 2:9-10).

*Walking **by faith** in what Christ has done enables us to please God!*

***Anyone who dares change that message should be accursed.***

## **Source & confirmation of message 1:10-2:10**

In this section Paul presents a lot of details about his story to demonstrate how God worked to prepare him for his ministry to Gentiles, to people like us!

He didn't cook up a man-made scheme to make a name for himself!

We want to skim quickly through the details this week, to emphasize his main point, before moving on to the essence of his argument.

The Judaizers know they can't attack Paul's **message** if his **position's** respected.

Therefore, they launch a personal attack against Paul. They challenge his **authority & calling**. Paul answers attack with defense of himself & his message.

Satan comes after us

the same way Judaizers go after Paul.

When we're grounded in Word, Satan can't discredit our *doctrine*—so he comes after *us* with personal attack:

*“You consider yourself a child of God?*

*Look at how inconsistent your life is!*

**Paul's message was revealed by Jesus 10-12**

*“Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. <sup>11</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. <sup>12</sup>I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”*

**Source of his good news isn't man's idea!** Paul didn't invent it!

**It's a revelation from Jesus.**

If he were seeking to please *people*, he'd tell us what people want to hear: ***“We can do it!”***

His message is from God;

It doesn't flatter our ability.

**Paul's former commitment to Judaism 1:13-14** *“You've heard of*

*my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God & tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age & was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”*

His zeal showed his desire to please God.

He was more zealous for traditions than they are!

He persecuted church

<= they didn't follow rules!

He knows about legalism

–trying to live by rules.

*He's been there!*

He also knows *it doesn't work!*

*[What made radical change in Paul's life?]*

**Paul's conversion & preparation 1:15-17** “When God, who set me apart from birth, & called me **by his grace**, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, <sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia & later returned to Damascus.”

**Paul wasn't taught by men/by people.**

He went to *Arabia*

**Paul was taught by God.**

**God** reveals it to him

–while He's ***alone with God***

Message isn't decided by popular vote. **GOD gave it!**

**Paul's communion with saints 18-24** *"After 3 yrs, I went up to Jeru. to get acquainted with Peter & stayed with him 15 days. <sup>19</sup>I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup>I assure you before God that what I'm writing you is no lie. <sup>21</sup>Later I went to Syria & Cilicia. <sup>22</sup>I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup>They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup>& they praised God because of me."*

When he returned from Arabia and Damascus,  
he only stayed 15 days with Peter.

**They didn't have time to teach him**

They barely knew what happened to him!

*Then he visited churches & preached gospel.*

**God received glory when people realized that  
God changed him; GOD caused him to  
understand the truth.**

**Paul's confirmation by the apostles 2:1-10**

**14 years later** he goes back to Jerusalem. **Then...**

**They accept Paul's test case [Titus] 1-5** *"14 yrs later, I went up again to Jeru., this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. <sup>2</sup>I went in response to a revelation & set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain. <sup>3</sup>Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. <sup>4</sup>This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks*

*to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus & to make us slaves. <sup>5</sup>We didn't give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you."*

Paul doesn't vacillate about message.

He wants to be sure he's in tune with the church.

Church recognizes God's hand when they see it!

**They accept Paul's message 2:6-7** *"As for those who seemed to be important—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearances—those men added nothing to my message. <sup>7</sup>On the contrary, they saw that I'd been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles just as Peter had been to the Jews."*

**They recognize Paul's calling by God 8-10** *"For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. <sup>9</sup>James, Peter & John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me & Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, & they to the Jews. <sup>10</sup>All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do."*

We spend too much time considering details of story.

We ought to pay more attention to *OUR* issues!

**What lessons do we learn from Paul's story?**

**Gospel isn't man's idea!**

**We'd never design such a plan!** Trusting Jesus!

We'd try to make people DO something!  
**Gospel is God's idea**

**Faithful followers affirm God has spoken!**

They *recognize* truth when they see it!

**It isn't our plan!** We didn't design it!

*We have no right to tamper with it!*

**How do WE try to please people?**

Do we try to soften gospel—make it more palatable?

Are we telling people what *THEY* want to hear,  
 or what *GOD* says?

Do we try to make people look better? Maybe we can do more,  
 if we try harder!" **We can't get away with it!**

The gospel either depends on GOD, or depends on US!

Which would *WE* rather trust?

***Ourselves?*** —ability to do right—100% of the time?

Or, promise of a **faithful God?**

Good news! God's done what we could *NEVER* do!

***Will you trust His Son?***

***Receive gift God wants to give you?***