

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

AM I THEREFORE BECOME YOUR ENEMY, BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH?

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **GALATIANS 4:6-16**

Galatians 4:16, Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

1. BACKGROUND

- a. We take our text from the **Book of Galatians**, which was written by the Apostle Paul between A.D. 49 and A.D. 57
- b. This Epistle was most likely written from Ephesus.
- c. In this setting we see the Jews greatly outnumber the Gentiles in the early church.
- d. Paul specifically refutes the statement that the Gentiles had to submit to Jewish customs and laws. **Romans 3:20-21**, *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21, But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Acts 13:39, And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*
- e. Paul uses this letter to remind Christians they are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:16-17**, *The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17, And if children, then heirs; Heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so that we suffer with him, that we may be glorified together.*
- f. Paul, a Jew himself, refutes the false teaching that Gentile Christians must be converted to Judaism and follow some observance of the Mosaic Law.
- g. Paul shows in this book that Abraham was saved by faith 400 years before the law was revealed to Moses. **James 2:23**, *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*
- h. **The Book of Galatians** is so important because of the kind and the types of people to whom it was addressed being much like the Americans today.
- i. If we were to describe Americans today, we would say they were frank, impatient, impressive, intelligent, fond of entertainment, inconsistent and obsessed with material things.
- j. Americans today are temperamental and beset with every cult and "ism" on the face of the earth. There is a lot of error with respect to the Gospel message of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In many cases so called religious people make up their own doctrine. If what someone is preaching, teaching or telling you cannot be backed up with the Preserved Word of God, it needs to be received with

extreme caution. **Colossians 2:8**, **Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

- k. Paul is God's spokesman for the church and the message that he gives is from the heart, it goes right to the point and is clear, stern, severe, and solid.
- l. This Epistle contains no words of commendation, praise, or thanksgiving.
- m. Paul is emphasizing that he has no tolerance for legalism in any way, shape, or form. **Romans 10:4**, **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**
- n. This Epistle was a favorite of men like Martin Luther and John Wesley during the reformation period.
- o. Galatians, from the hands of Paul, is the strongest declaration and defense of the doctrine of justification by faith taught anywhere in the Scriptures. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9, Not of works, lest any man should boast.**
- p. The emphasis is that a sinner is saved by grace through faith plus nothing. The saved sinner needs to continue to live by grace and not by the law! **Ephesians 2:8-9**, **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**
- q. Grace brought us to Christ, and we must continue in that grace.
- r. Let us look at some major themes in the **Book of Galatians**.
 - 1. The law was given to reveal man's sinfulness and guilt. **Galatians 3:24**, **Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**
 - 2. To try (or attempt) to live under the law is bondage. **Galatians 5:1**, **Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**
 - 3. To live by faith is freedom for the Christian.
 - 4. Believers are not bound by the law. Christ has set us free. **John 8:36**, **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**
 - 5. Liberty is certainly not a license to continue in sin, but love is the ingredient that provides the restraints and makes one want to please God. **Romans 6:1-2**, **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2, God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**
 - 6. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, the Christian has the power to live a victorious life over sin. **Romans 12:1-2**, **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**
- s. Paul concludes this book by talking about walking in the spirit. He covers the fruit of the spirit. **Galatians 5:22-23**, **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**
- t. With that little bit of background, let us continue to look at the **Book of Galatians** and see what God reveals to us.

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the morning message April 11, 2021

3. ELEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

j. And because ye are sons,...

1. **Galatians 4:6**, And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
2. When we get saved, we not only get regenerated by the Holy Spirit, we not only get baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, we not only get sealed by the Holy Spirit and have the capacity to be filled by the Holy Spirit, but we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 4:30**, And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 1 Corinthians 6:19, What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
3. sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, - Romans 8:16, The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
4. If we are the children of God, we are the sons of God.
5. **Romans 8:8-14**, So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9, But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10, And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11, But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12, Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13, For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14, For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
6. If we are a child of God and we want to be led by the Spirit of God He will lead us.
7. The flesh can never get the victory because there is no good in the flesh. **Romans 7:18**, For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
8. In the flesh there is still the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. **1 John 2:16**, For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
9. We must keep uppermost in our minds that it is the soul that gets saved and not the flesh. **Romans 8:15-16**, For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16, The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
10. Do not let the word Abba throw you off. Translators have decided that it was too intimate to translate it to an English word.
11. It means God my wonderful Heavenly Father. He is wonderful. The Lord Jesus Christ is a wonderful Saviour.

k. Wherefore thou art no more a servant,...

1. **Galatians 4:7**, Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

2. For those who think you must seek for something to have an experience with the Lord; this verse refutes that.
3. As a matter of fact, when we are no longer a servant, but a son then an heir of God through Christ.
4. If we are an heir, we are entitled to all the benefits. This gives us the experience of being a son of God. **1 Peter 1:4, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**
5. It does not come by seeking after something. This has nothing to do with sanctification.
6. We are to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; we should be getting better each day. Our position in Christ is as a full-grown son. This is justification - just like I have never sinned, not sanctification which is growing in grace. **2 Peter 3:18, But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**
7. When you are a new believer you are just as capable of learning and understanding truths just like a person who has been in Christ for many years.
8. God said that Mary had chosen the better part. She was willing to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn. **Luke 10:42, But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.**
9. Most saints go wrong when they think that once we have come to Christ as Saviour and we have gone through the Bible that we have arrived. We have not arrived, my friend; we will never arrive if we are in the flesh. **1 Corinthians 9:27, But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**
10. It is spiritual truth that goes into the heart that will mold us and make us; none of us have arrived. We are all a work in progress. **Romans 12:2, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**
11. When we understand that it is necessary for us to assemble ourselves together, listen to the Preserved Word of God being preached, and as a result we will grow spiritually. **Hebrews 10:25, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**
12. **Romans 8:16, The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**
13. When you have that spiritual truth lodged into your heart you will never doubt your salvation. You will know that it is a transaction between the Father and the Son. Eternal security is life everlasting in the Lord Jesus Christ. **1 John 5:13, These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. John 17:3, And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**
14. **2 Timothy 4:16-17, At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17, Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be**

fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

15. The Lord is always there to take care of us. **Hebrews 13:5**, *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

i. Howbeit then, when ye knew not God,...

1. **Galatians 4:8**, *Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.*
2. The Galatians had practiced idolatry.
3. Jesus came to save the sinner not the righteous. **Luke 5:32**, *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*
4. When we realize that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God, He will save us. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
5. In Asia Minor they were worshipping idols. Paul describes some of these idols. **1 Corinthians 12:2**, *Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.*
6. All of us have been there. It was the purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins.

m. But now, after that ye have known God,...

1. **Galatians 4:9**, *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*
2. At one point before we became a believer in Christ, we were serving other gods. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11, And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*
3. We must understand that before we came to know Jesus as Saviour we were in the family of the devil. **John 8:42-44**, *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43, Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44, Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*
4. Now that we have known God, we know Jesus as personal Saviour; we have faith in His blood, why would these believers try to get back under the Mosaic Law?
5. Believers this day in time want to put themselves under the law.
6. Paul is saying in no uncertain terms that to go back under the law is like going back into idolatry.
7. Once we know Christ as Saviour, we are free. **John 8:36**, *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

n. Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

1. **Galatians 4:10, Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.**
2. Under the law there was the Sabbath day. **Colossians 2:16, Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:**
3. We are not to go back and observe these things. We are free in Christ.
4. I was asked the other day; why do we worship on Sunday instead of Saturday? Because Christ was still in the tomb on Saturday. On Sunday He bodily resurrected. It is the first day of the week and we worship on Sunday because of that. **1 Corinthians 16:2, Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.**
5. If you try to get under the law; first, the law cannot save but if you get under the law you must keep the whole law. **James 2:10, For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**
6. It is amazing how many people there are who want to pick and choose.
7. There are those who say they have the gift of healing; they want to use verses in the Bible for their own benefit.
8. In that same verse it says you can tread on serpents and drink anything deadly, but we ignore those things and go and pick what we want. **You cannot do that my friend. Mark 16:17-18, And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18, They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**
9. The Word of God must be rightly divided.

o. I am afraid of you,...

1. **Galatians 4:11, I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.**
2. Paul is saying that he has given them the truth, but they do not understand it.
3. He uses a strong verse in our text that says: **Galatians 4:16, Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?**
4. He was trying to tell them they did not need to place themselves under the law. They were saved by grace and grace only.
5. If we are trying to be under the law, it is nothing more than practicing idolatry.
6. When we come to know Christ, there is no Mosaic Law that governs our actions. There are no rules, laws, and regulations. However, our love for Christ should be our constraint from sin.

p. Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am;...

1. **Galatians 4:12, Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.**
2. Paul says we are to follow his example because he is teaching and preaching salvation by grace. **Acts 2:42, And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Philipians 4:9, Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**
3. Even though you might not understand, get in Christ and because of that you will know you cannot lose your salvation.

4. The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are in fact the sons of God. **Romans 8:16, The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**
 5. We are all on the same plane. We are all believers in Christ. We are all sons of God by position when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. It does not make any difference how much Bible we know or do not know; we are all at the same level in Christ Jesus.
 6. At the same time, there is sanctification – we can grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus.
- q. ...I preached the gospel unto you at the first.**
1. **Galatians 4:13, Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.**
 2. Paul goes back and reminds us that he had a thorn in the flesh. **2 Corinthians 12:6-7, For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. 7: And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.**
 3. He asked the Lord three times to remove it but the Lord did not. The aforementioned verse alone refutes the false doctrine that healing of the physical body here on earth is part of the atonement. **2 Corinthians 12:8-9, For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**
 4. I have heard people say they know what the thorn was, but no one really knows for sure.
 5. I believe we can get a hint from **Galatians 4:15, ... ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.** that there was a problem with his eyes.
- r. And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not,...**
1. **Galatians 4:14, And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.**
 2. Whatever his problem in the flesh was, they ignored it and listened to the Preserved Word of God.
 3. We are never to be hindered by the messenger.
- s. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of?...**
1. **Galatians 4:15, Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.**
 2. Apparently, there was an unattractive feature about the apostle Paul's eyes.
 3. I do know that when we look at the common disease in the land of that day there was running of the eyes to the point that it was unattractive.
 4. They ignored it and received him wonderfully when he preached, however there was still some who did not receive the truth.
- t. Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?**

1. **Galatians 4:16, Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?**
2. When we tell the truth, some people do not want to hear it.
3. There have been people who have attended this church that have been given the truth and it is too strong for them, so they seek greener pastures.
4. Sometimes they nit-pick and try to find something wrong with the truth.
5. One of the things we must understand is when we go to the pulpit that it would be "Sir, we would see Jesus," and we are there to reflect the Saviour and to give the whole counsel of God. **John 12:21, The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Acts 20:26-27, Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. 27, For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.**
6. Many today do not want pastors to preach the truth. I am mandated to declare unto you all the council of God. I am free from the blood of all men. What you do with the truth is left up to you. **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11, And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12, That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.** As a matter of fact, some preachers have been bought off, and the Word of God has been watered down, men have lost their fervor for the Preserved Word of God, they no longer hold it in awe, and we want to preach popular psychology. **2 Timothy 4:3, For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; Jeremiah 12:10, Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.**
7. The Preserved Word of God is not all about feeling good; it should rub us wrong; it should convict our hearts. If the Preserved Word of God is not convicting our heart, then something is wrong.
8. No pastor has the authority from God to go to the pulpit and preach anything but the Preserved Word of God. **Galatians 4:16, Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?**
9. Jesus was crucified and rose again for our justification. This is what salvation is all about.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Him as personal Saviour today needs to be your day of salvation.
- c. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;** When we are placed in the family of God we are placed as full-grown sons.
- d. **God will save any individual. Revelation 22:17, And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**
- d. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

- e. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10, For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- f. Please stand.

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