

Letter to Galatia: Churches Beginning to Stray

Franklin Church of Christ
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10 AM Worship

Introduction:

So many churches in the religious world believe and practice different things. We see in the scriptures the need to just follow the Lord. How do we deal with that kind of situation? The problem we face, particularly in our culture, is that it puts us in a bad light when we begin to be critical of, and say something about, what others believe and are doing.

Paul's letter to the church at Galatia serves as an example of what God would say to churches that He believes are straying or moving away from the truth. In the letter, Paul deals with the importance of the gospel, baptism, and fruits of the spirit.

Discussion:

- I. God's gospel: only rule & authority.
 - A. One source – one message
 1. One message, authority, time (1:6-9)
 2. Choose who to serve (1:10)
 - B. All authority in God – none in man
 1. Revelation of Jesus Christ (1:11-12)
 2. The story verifying the source (1:13-24)
 3. Does not matter what anybody thinks (2:1-16)

Gal. 2:3 -- circumcision & Law
- II. God's gospel: truth is consistent.
 - A. Error is inconsistent (2:14-21)
 - B. Evidence in the Spirit's working (3:1-5)
 - C. Justified in and as Abraham (3:6-14)
 - D. God's plan: Promise –Law– Gospel (3:15-29)
 - E. Illustrating use of temporary things (4:1-7)
 - F. *Your behavior manifests error* (4:8-20)
 - G. Born of promise or flesh, not both (4:21-31)
- III. God's gospel: always practical.
 - A. Make a choice, you can't do both (5:1-6)
 - B. Identify the evil influence (5:7-12)
 - C. No excuses for bad behavior (5:13-26)
 - D. Help each other – carefully (6:1-5)
 - E. Behave responsibly (6:6-10)
 - F. See things as they truly are (6:12-15)

Conclusion:

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them... **Galatians 6:16**