

Galatians

Perversion Of The Gospel
Galatians 1:6-9

Background Of Galatia

- Situated in Asia Minor with the Gentile world of Europe to the West and the Jewish world of Palestine to the East and South, it was destined to become the site of one of the greatest religious battles in history.

- Historically, the term Galatia refers to the Gauls who moved from Europe into Asia Minor in the third century and established their own Kingdom. When Roman rule was reaching its climax, the territory was considerably enlarged by several things...

- In 64 B.C. Pompey conquered the Near East and appointed three kings over the area of Galatia, the chief of which was Amyntas.
- In 36 B.C. Amyntas was given Galatia and Lyconia, and upon the death of Mark Antony he assumed control of Pamphylia, Cilicia and Derbe:
- In 25 B.C. Amyntas was killed and the Romans created the new province of Pamphylia
- By 41 A.D. the southern border of the Roman province of Galatia was the city of Derbe.

Galatia as a proper name was applied to both the original territory occupied by the invading Gauls and the much larger area of the entire Roman province, reaching southward to the borders of Lycia, Pamphylia and the kingdom of Antiochus

Trouble In Galatia

- Acts 10 cf. Cornelius... Gentiles acceptable.
 - Acts 11 Gospel taught among Gentiles.
 - Acts 15:1 "Except ye be circumcised after the custom of Moses, ye cannot be saved"
- Gal. 2:21; 3:1; 3:14; 5:2-7

Traditions of Men
vs.
Traditions from God

Mark 7:1-13

Two Sources of Religious Tradition

MEN

- Origin
- Perpetuated
- Bound by men
- No lasting spiritual profit

Col. 2:8

GOD

- Origin
- Perpetuated
- Bound by God
- Lasting spiritual profit

2 Thess. 2:15

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Religious Traditions of Men

- Excite much religious zeal, *Gal. 1:14; Mark 7:9; Romans 10:2-3; Acts 15*
- Often regarded as equal to the will of God – *Mark 7:1-8*
 - Jewish washings
 - Catholic “church tradition”
 - Instrumental music in worship

Gal. 1:6-9

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Religious Traditions of Men

- Invalidate the word of God, *Mark 7:9-13*
 - Thought “Corban” obeyed God’s will!
 - Denominations, *Eph. 4:4; John 15:1-6; John 17:20-21*
- Spoil one’s faith, *Colossians 2:8*
 - Human philosophies & religions
 - Rooted, built up & established, *Colossians 2:6-7*

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Apostolic Traditions

- Apostles’ doctrine (word of God) – *Acts 2:42; 2 Thess. 2:15 (1 Thess. 2:13)*
 - The gospel, *1 Cor. 15:3*
 - Did not include circumcising Gentiles, *Acts 15:7-9*

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Identifying the Apostles’ doctrine...

- Came from Christ *Gal. 1:11-12*
- By revelation of H.S. *Eph. 3:4-5; John 16:13-14*
- Apostles were ambassadors. *2 Cor. 5:20; John 17:8,14,18; 1 Thess. 4:8*
- Earthen vessels. *2 Cor. 4:7; “my gospel” 2 Tim. 2:8; “committed to my trust” 1 Tim. 1:11*

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Apostolic Traditions

- How were they delivered? (*Jude 3*)
 - Received by apostles from Lord, *1 Cor. 11:23 (15:3) [Revelation]*
 - Delivered through teaching, *1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 2:15 [Inspiration]*
 - By word – *2 Tim. 2:2 (1 Thess. 2:13)*
 - By writing – *2 Thess. 2:15*

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Apostolic Traditions

- Our responsibilities to the apostolic traditions:
 - Hold them fast, *2 Thess. 2:15*
 - Walk in them, *2 Thess. 3:6 (1 Cor. 11:2)*

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The Seriousness Of Going Beyond 2 John 9-11

- “Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.”
- “He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

Some would teach wrong things...

- Jesus warned. *Mt. 7:15; 24:4-5*
- Apostles warned.
 - *Acts 20:29-30* Some of Ephesian elders would speak perverse things.
 - *2 Cor. 11:13-15* Satan has ministers.
 - *1 Tim. 4:1-3* Some would depart from the faith.
 - *2 Tim. 4:1-4* Men would turn from the faith.
 - *2 Pet. 2:1-3* False teachers would come.
 - *1 John 4:1-3* False prophets gone out into the world.

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What must we do???

- Prove all things. *1 Thess. 5:21-22; Revelation 2:2; Acts 18:25-26*
- Hold to the faithful word - Reprove false teachers. *Titus 1:9; 2:1*
- No longer be tossed to and fro. *Ephesians 4:14*
- Not be carried away. *Hebrews 13:9-19*
- Not be spoiled by traditions of men. *Col. 2:8*

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How do we know?

- Not determined by motive.
 - *Philippians 1:15-18*
Motive Wrong - Teaching right.
 - *Gal. 1:13-14; Acts 23:1; 26:9; 1 Tim. 1:13*
Motive right - Teaching wrong.

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How do we know???

- *2 Pet. 2:1-2* Promotes destructive heresies- opposed truth. (cf. *1:19-21*)
 - *Rom. 16:17* Cause division/stumbling contrary to doctrine learned.
 - *1 Tim. 1:3,10-11* Another doctrine, contrary to sound doctrine.
 - *Gal. 1:6-9* Contrary doctrine prohibited (even though teacher is an angel or apostle - *Gal. 2:11-14*)
- NOTE: False prophet assessed by his teaching, not by his moral character. *1 Jno. 4:1,6*

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What am I to do?

- Learn how to know them.
 - Try their teaching by the Scriptures. *1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11.*
 - Aquila and Priscilla taught Apollos more perfectly. *Acts 18:26*
- Contend for truth against error. *Jude 3-4*
 - Paul & Barnabas did. *Acts 15:1-2*
 - Paul rebuked Peter. *Gal. 2:11*
- Never give way by subjection. *Gal. 2:4-5*

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What am I to do?

- No fellowship.
 - *Eph. 5:11-12* Rather even reprove them.
 - *Rom. 16:17-18* Mark and avoid.
 - *Titus 3:9-10* Refuse.
 - *2 John 7-11* Receive not.
- Teach the truth in love. *Ephesians 4:16*
“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one.” Colossians 4:6

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Avoid Establishing Our Own Traditions!

- Be people of the book (*Hosea 4:6*)
2 Tim. 2:15; Jude 3
- Do not think of men more highly than we ought, *1 Cor. 4:6*
- Continue to hold fast the apostolic traditions, *Col. 2:6-8*

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- Circumcision among the Galatian churches was rejected.
- It would bring them under bondage to keep the whole law. *Gal. 5:1ff*
- It would demand perfect obedience to the O.T. *Gal. 3:10*
- Ultimately, it would mean that Christ died in vain. *Gal. 2:21*