

Preachers And Authority

Galatians 2:1-11

Intro:

- A. The preacher and secular authority.
 - 1. True preachers are not creatures of the secular state.
 - 2. They have no authority over them, that exceeds that which other citizens must be subject.
 - 3. The Apostles said, "**We ought to obey God rather than men.**" **Acts 5:29**

- B. The preacher and spiritual authority.
 - 1. Like Paul, our call is from God.
 - 2. The authority that a church has over a preacher is no more or less than any member. This pertains to morals, doctrinal purity, and daily walk.
 - 3. Paul defends his calling. No man called him. No man gave him his message.
 - 4. He was not subject to Apostolic authority.

I. Paul And The Other Apostles.

- A. Paul went to Jerusalem.
 - 1. **1:18** He went three years after his conversion.
 - 2. **2:1** He returned 14 years later.
 - 3. He took Titus with him.

- B. Paul went because of a revelation.
 - 1. **Vs. 2** "Revelation" = αποκαλυψεις = "unveiling".
 - 2. "Communicated" = ανατιθημι = "to lay something before someone for consideration", "to relate with a view of consulting".
 - 3. He laid the gospel, he preached to the gentiles before them.
 - 4. "Privately" = κατα ιδιαν = "apart from others".
 - 5. "Reputation" = δοκεω = "to seem", "to have the appearance", "to seem to be something".

- C. **Vs. 2b** The reason Paul went.
 - 1. "Lest" = "that in no way".
 - 2. "Means" = πως = "in any way".
 - 3. "Run" = τρεχω = "to run", Here to run in a race for a prize.
 - 4. "Vain" = δωρεαν = "gratuitously", hence without cause, to run and not receive an award.

II. The Issue Paul Sought To Settle.

- A. **Vs. 3** Paul took Titus with him.
1. He was a Greek.
 2. "Compelled" = αναγκαζω = "to force".
 3. The leaders at Jerusalem had already recognized that circumcision was not necessary to salvation. Peter in **Acts 15:10**, and James in **Acts 15:19**.
 4. Paul did circumcise Timothy. **Acts 16:1-3**.
 5. Gentiles need not keep the Law, Jews must.
- B. **Vs. 4** Those who would force the issue.
1. "False brethren" = ψευδαδελφος = "a pretender".
 2. "Unawares" = παρεισακτος = "smuggled in along side".
 3. "Privily" = παρεισερχομαι = "stealthily coming in along side".
 4. "Spy out" = κατασκοπεω = "to spy out", "to examine carefully, with the idea of treachery".
 5. "Liberty" = ελευθερια = "freedom".
 6. "Bondage" = καταδουλωω = "to completely enslave".
 7. They were free in Christ but were enslaving themselves to the law.
- C. **Vs. 5** Paul never wavered.
1. "Gave place" = εικω = "give way", "yield".
 2. "Subjection" = υποταγη = "submission".
 3. "We did not yield for a moment to their claim for submission (to circumcision)"
 4. "Continue" = διαμενω = "to remain upon", "to continue throughout".
 5. Paul meant to hold to an uncompromised gospel for everyone's benefit, Jew and Gentile.
- D. **Vs. 6** The "Leaders" did not correct Paul.
1. "But as to the men of high reputation".
 2. (not that their importance matters to me:
 3. God does not recognize these important personal distinctions)
 4. "Accepteth" = λαμβανω = "to take", "to respect the person of any one".
 5. "Person" = προσωπον = "the part of anything that is presented to the eye", "character".
 6. "Conference" = προσαναπιθημι = "to lay anything additional on one", "to communicate further".
- E. The leaders encouraged Paul.

1. **Vs. 7** "Contrawise" = ΤΟΥΝΑΝΤΙΟΝ = "the opposite".
 2. They did the opposite of condemn.
- F. **Vs. 8** God's blessings were the same.
1. The power was from, "He".
 2. "Wrought effectually" = ενεργεω = "to be at work", "to produce results".
 3. The same God energized Paul to preach to the Gentiles and Peter to preach to the Jews.

III. The Decision Of The Conference. Vs. 9-10

- A. **Vs. 9** "And when James, Cephas, and John who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me..."
1. "Pillars" = στυλος = "a column", "any firm support", The Jews used the term to identify outstanding teachers of the law.
 2. "Perceived" = γινωσκω = "to gain insight".
- B. "...they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."
1. "Fellowship" = κοινωνια = "fellowship". This signified that they were in agreement.
 2. This was a token of their pledge to support these who preached "Paul's gospel" that it was the true gospel.
- C. **Vs. 10** Their word of caution.
1. The conference was afraid that those who had never been guided by the law would not have a proper understanding of good works.
 2. Paul had already thought this through.

IV. Do We Face Similar Challenges?

- A. There are those who would pervert the gospel.
1. Pervert it by leaving out something.
 2. Pervert it by adding something to it.
- B. They would do it for, "good".
1. They love God so much they would do wrong to see His cause advanced.
 2. Being, "A fool for Christ" is not doing foolish things. We earn such a title by doing what Christ did.