

“The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ” Pt. I

Intro: As we come to our text this Lord’s Day the Apostle Paul has come to the end of this _____-breathed letter addressed to the church in Galatia. The main points have been convincingly addressed and expounded upon. All that remains is for Paul to close the letter which he does with a parting one-two punch of _____, denouncing the false teachers in their self-righteous shame (pt. I), and exalting Christ in the glory of His selfless work upon the _____ (pt. II).

A. As we study verses 11-13 this morning Paul addresses the church very personally as he denounces the false teachers in their self-righteous shame by revealing the _____, motivation and hypocrisy of their heresy (and that of course as _____ to the truth of the glory of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ).

I. The Apostle _____ wrote the church in Galatia with his _____ using large letters.

A. This is an either or _____ of immeasurable significance and Paul wanted the church to understand it. Salvation is either of merit or mercy, works or grace, to man’s glory or God’s. The issue is an _____ issue on which salvation hinges.

B. _____ take it personally when the essential truth of the gospel is maligned with heresy. When that happens souls hang in the balance and the glory of our God is maligned! _____ address the issue largely, in boldness, loudly, clearly, unequivocally.

II. The Apostle Paul revealed that it was of _____ that the _____ teachers desired to make a good showing in the flesh.

A. The _____ teachers were not concerned with what they really were but with what they _____ to be!

B. Through their _____ fleshly efforts the arrogant teachers desired to _____ themselves before others.

III. The Apostle revealed what _____ the false teachers to teach their heresy.

A. The false teachers were motivated by self-promotion and self-_____ as they were trying to avoid being persecuted for Christ’s name’s sake.

B. Hendriksen wrote, “They (the false teachers) know very well that a Jew who departs from the Jewish traditions and accepts Christ wholeheartedly can expect nothing but bitter persecutions ...” Paul told the Galatian believers that ultimately the false teachers weren’t really concerned with the salvation of Gentile souls but with the _____ of their _____ skin.

IV. The Apostle revealed the _____ of the false teachers.

A. Leon Morris writes, "Keeping the whole law was a difficult task (*and I add, an impossible task*) and Paul is clear that the false preachers did not succeed in doing this. They had themselves been circumcised, but they _____ reproduce in their lives the keeping of _____ that their acceptance of this rite involved."

B. John Stott writes, "Yet the same mistake is made today by those who attach an _____ importance on baptism and teach the doctrine of baptismal regeneration. Baptism is important as circumcision was important. The risen Christ gave baptism to the church, as God gave circumcision to Abraham. ... But both baptism and circumcision, however great and spiritual the truths they signify, are themselves outward and bodily _____. And it is absurd to magnify such things as indispensable means of salvation ...

... it is a lamentable tragedy when men become so topsy-turvy in their thinking that they _____ the sign for the real thing signified, magnify a bodily ceremony at the expense of a change of heart, and make circumcision or baptism the way of salvation instead of a new creation. Circumcision and baptism are things of the 'flesh', outward and visible ceremonies performed by men; the _____ is a birth of the Spirit, an inward and invisible miracle performed by God."

C. And so then, let us _____ for this same hypocrisy that took place 1950 years ago, takes place today. There are those who pretend to be lovers of God, who hold to a form of godliness – an _____, but have denied the power of God by His Spirit possessing no inward regeneration. (cf. 2 Tim 3:4-5).

Conclusion: To sum this up it is a matter of choosing between the religions of _____ the one true _____. Will you give yourself to a humanism, or to the Divine Lord and God? The choice is arrogance verses repentance, merit verses mercy, law verses grace, works verses the cross, me verses Christ. _____ today who you will serve!

Col 2:8-10a, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to _____. 9 For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, ..."

For your own soul's sake I beg of you, that you would choose even now to no longer glory in yourself but that you would, by the Spirit of the Loving God, _____ the Cross of Our Lord Jesus _____.

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