

5-29-22

## Galatians 2:1-10

Ask yourself the old question “What kind of church would my church be if every member was just like me?”

I think it is important for us to periodically take a moment and evaluate our personal contributions to the ministry. If we look closely, then we may find that there are some changes to be made in how we serve others and most importantly how we serve our Savior.

I want you to ask yourself another question.....Are you having a positive impact or a negative impact? There is no middle ground, there is no neutral! You are either adding to this ministry or taking away from it!

Before Covid hit us, I religiously did ministry evaluations. If you have been part of Bethel before Covid you probably remember all the talk of, what are we doing and can we do it better. I loved asking new visitors to critique everything they experienced while visiting us. Then Covid hit and for almost two years we were in survival mode. How can we keep the doors open and minister to people? Evaluations went out the window, we just wanted to have a place to worship and serve. Considering the last few months, it has grown very apparent we must get back to some evaluating, not just in the nursery, junior church, YG, Super book or any of the other areas of serve here. But we must get back to evaluating our daily spiritual walk with Jesus.

The message is the same, we must be about the gospel. How are you doing about sharing the gospel? How are you doing about living the gospel? Well, compared to Fred and Wilma I am killing it. Or compared to Jack Pierson I am doing nothing. (This is us character) We should be comparing ourselves to Christ, because that is who lives inside of born-again believers.

**In Mark 16:14, “afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.<sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”**

We, born-again believers are to “go” into all the world and what? In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus goes even further and says, **“Go therefore make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”** Amen.

So, as we evaluate things, government, schools, churches, we should also evaluate families, our own families, and most importantly ourselves. How are we doing at living out the Great Commission that Jesus left for each of us believers to do. Jesus didn’t leave us ill prepared either, He said “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The one thing I keep hearing on all platforms of media following the heinous acts that happened last Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in Texas is, what can we do? What is the answer? What can we do locally, statewide and nationally? Do you know what is still the best answer, the perfect answer? Get people to church and introduce them to Jesus. The only answer for mankind is still Jesus. God's Word still holds all the answers to what mankind needs. The real problem, all the world's problem is and has always been that mankind wants every other answer other than God's.

We must/need to evaluate ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to be honest with us. Try and really hear what He is highlighting in our life.

**Background:** Thus far in his Epistle to the Galatians, Paul has covered a great deal of information. He has declared and defended his Apostleship. He has reminded the people of Christ's sacrifice for their sins. He has reinforced the idea of salvation through **GRACE!** He has addressed the issue of returning to the bondage of the Law. He has exposed and warned against false teaching. In the verses immediately preceding our text for today, Paul shared: a brief testimony of his life before Christ, he talked about his conversion and his life in Christ up to this point.

Here in chapter 2, he continues to describe some of the issues that he had faced since he began to serve the Lord. He is telling the believers of Galatia that the issues they were facing were not new, he had dealt with these same problems and similar troublemakers in the past.

In our selected text, Paul speaks about the actions concerning different groups of people.

1. There were some who Paul served - The Galatians
2. There were some who served with Paul - Titus & Barnabas
3. There were some who hindered Paul's service - The Judaizers

Some of them had a positive impact on the ministry and some had a negative impact. The same types of people and the same actions can be found in churches today. It is my desire that through this message you can identify what sort of impact you are having.

As we evaluate ourselves and if we are allowing God to reign supremely in our lives, I want to ask three simple questions. I will warn you they are simple, but they are real and hurt.

**1. Do you invest in others?**

- **Read Galatians 2:1-3.**
- When Paul returned to Jerusalem he was accompanied by Barnabas and Titus. These three men were fellow laborers in the ministry. They worked together to spread the Gospel, but they also benefited each another.
- Who did Barnabas invest in? (Paul)

**Acts 9:26-27, *And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.***

- Remember what Paul was like when he went by the artist formerly known as Saul? He said that **his goal and passion in life had been to destroy the church**. His life had been spent persecuting Christians. But all that changed on Damascus Road when Jesus called him out. There has been a great change in his life, but the people did not know about it, and those who did didn't believe it.
- The disciples were afraid and didn't believe that Paul was transformed. Praise God for Barnabas.
- Barnabas had nothing to gain personally from befriending Paul, but he did so because it was the right thing to do! Barnabas spent time with Paul and helped him in his new life in Christ. He then went with Paul on his first missionary journey. Barnabas lived up to his reputation as the "son of consolation" and the "great encourager"! He invested in the life of Paul and Paul benefited greatly as a result!
- Not only did Barnabas invest in Paul we see that Paul invested in Titus.

**Titus 1:4, *To Titus, a true son in our common faith***

- Somewhere along the way Paul encountered Titus and as a result Titus encountered Jesus! Titus was not just someone that Paul had led to the Lord. There was a relationship... He calls him "a true son in our common faith" - Relationships require an investment of time! Paul invested much time and work into Titus's life. As a result of Paul investing into Titus's life, Titus grew and became beneficial to the ministry.
- The Gospel ministry has a "chain reaction" so to speak.
- Barnabas invested in Paul, Paul invested in Titus and as a result Titus invested in others.

**Titus 1:5, *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city and I commanded you.***

- For Paul to leave such a HUGE task for Titus shows that Paul spent a lot of time with Titus getting him ready for the task ahead.
- I wonder where Paul would have been without Barnabas or Titus without Paul, or the area of Crete without Titus.
- Where would you be without those that invested in you?
- I know where I would be. I am so thankful to all the people who invested in me and still do to this day. I would be lost, literally.
- It is vitally important that each of us, who are born again, take the time and invest in others.

- Jesus instructs us, was an example of what His servants are to do, share the gospel with someone, teach someone, encourage someone, lead someone, pray with someone.
- Will you do what it takes to help someone along the way? I love to see people saved! I wish that the baptistery was used every week. But our responsibility doesn't end when they pass through the waters, and they are church members. Once they are saved and baptized, then the discipleship process begins. It is good for a new believer to sit under biblical preaching. It is good for them to attend a Sunday school or small group. But they still need more. New converts need mature believers to invest into their life!
- I encourage you to find someone who is young in the faith and become a mentor to them. You are where you are because people invested in you... WILL YOU INVEST IN OTHERS?

## 2. Do you work with others?

- **Read verse 7-10.**
- Here we find that Peter, John, James, Barnabas and Paul were on the same page concerning the ministry. God had revealed to Paul that he should go to Jerusalem. He met with Peter, John & James those Apostles who were "pillars" or leaders of the church. Paul shared the message that he had been preaching to the Gentiles. The other Apostles supported Paul and the work that he was doing. Paul says that they did not demand that Titus be circumcised (as some thought he should). And the Lord's Apostles did not add anything to what Paul was preaching.
- Though there may have been some troublemakers among the churches, the **TRUE** servants of the Lord were "working together". We must take the proper steps to ensure that we are "working together" for the cause of Christ! If you are saved there is a work for you to do! You have a gift and God has a plan for your life, and that plan involves serving Him.
- Notice there were different missions, different jobs, different areas of ministry, but one goal, the GOSPEL. Peter was focused on the Jews, while Paul and Barnabas were focused on the Gentiles.
- That is how God works! Some are called to different areas of His ministry, but the end goal of every ministry is the GOSPEL.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

- The method or group focus might change but the goal, focus and message will NEVER change. All the areas are to point to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- First, are you working for the Lord? If not, then you need to make things right with Jesus! But if you are working, are you working with others?

## 3. Do you cause trouble for others?

- **Read verses 4-6.**
- Here Paul describes some of the troublemakers that he had dealt with in the past. These individuals were VERY similar to those who would cause trouble and division in the Galatian church. (And these same types are present today!) Paul addresses the most important fact right in verse 4... **“FALSE BRETHREN!”**. These Judaizers were not **TRUE BELIEVERS!** They lived in “no man’s land” so to speak. They professed devotion to Christ, and this was opposed to Judaism, then they called from circumcision and obeying the Mosaic Law, so they were in opposition to Christianity. Whether they knew it or not they were being used of Satan to spy out the believer’s liberty in Christ.
- The goal of that spy was to “bring us into bondage”. The “bondage” referred to the rituals, rules and regulations of Judaism. Paul and Titus never retreated from their position of salvation by grace through **CHRIST ALONE!** But the enemy had set his sights on the believers of Galatia, and his “spies had infiltrated the church and were causing great trouble”
- Today, the enemy would love to cause trouble in the church. He will take every opportunity to have someone infiltrate a church and sow discord. Just as sure as we must watch for false prophets in the church (**Galatians 1:6-9**). We also must watch for those who would come in the church and cause division! Just as Paul refused to give in to the Judaizers, we must refuse to fall for the evil works of troublemakers in the church!
- Have you, would you or are you causing trouble in the church?

## Conclusion

How many times have I said, "I love Jesus", And turned a deaf ear to a need?

How many times have I said I'm a Christian, but never one soul did I lead?

How many luxuries have I passed by, to have more to give to the Lord?

Jesus, I promise as long as I live, from now on I'm going do more.

No wonder the members have bowed down with sorrow, I never did offer to share.

No wonder the heathen are dying in sin, No wonder the missions are lack,

My heart is so cold, and I've lost my first love, But Jesus I'm on my way back.

I wonder what kind of church would my church be, if every member was just like me?

How many souls would be saved today, if it all depended on what I say?

I wonder how many prayers would my Lord have to answer, if all that He heard came from me?

I wonder, what kind of church would my church be, if every member was just like me?