

~ WE OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN....

GALATIANS 1:2 – 10

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~ Our Spiritual Safari continues to examine the epistle to the Galatians in this report; and the Galatians are questioning Paul concerning legalism. So, Paul is going to tell us exactly what the Gospel means in this passage; so that none of us get confused about its definition. Paul was *NOT* made an apostle by the commission of men; nor by ritualistic gyrations. Paul was an apostle by the Lord Jesus Christ. His credentials to the Galatians was the Spirit of God's Personal commendation. We considered that in our last report. Most ministers today are ordained of men and through men. They go to a certain school, and obtain specific degrees; then, they finish a seminary and are examined by a church board and, subsequently, possible ordination follows. That's the legalistic side of religion; and it is "*of men.*" Well, Paul was not ordained of or by men....

***1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead)***

***2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:***

~ There are two ways in which the word "*church*" is used in the New Testament. One way includes the entire body of believers who have trusted Christ. The second way refers to a local assembly; and that second way is what Paul is referring to here. Paul is writing back to churches he had previously visited in several areas. So, the local view of worship is in view now; and not the corporate body of believers. This is personal. Ephesians will reveal the invisible body of believers; but even the invisible body is commanded to make itself visible in corporate worship. We should be identified with a local body of believers – period. It's very important, too, by the way....

***3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,***

***4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:***

~ Any honest theologian will admit verse four attempts to take us to a level that we cannot attain to. Christ gave Himself for us. Interestingly, the Pharisee's never asked Jesus any questions about tithing. They only asked Him about paying taxes — which He answered. Ultimately, it was healing on the Sabbath that enraged them to murder. Well, Jesus gave Himself — and that means He gave all.

What are you giving today, friends? Anything? Can we add anything to Christ giving Himself? Christ gave Himself. God couldn't give any more. I know I don't have anything meaningful to offer. Perhaps you do? Can you say Jesus Christ is your Savior? Can you say Christ is your personal Shepherd? Can you tell Him you love Him in prayer right now? That's when He delivers us from this present evil world — with assurance found only in Holy Writ. That means there is a present and immediate value in the Gospel which proves its own power and genuineness.

Many people are trying to keep the Mosaic Law today; but they're ignoring that Christ gave His life for our sins and was raised again so that He might also “.... *deliver us from this present evil world.*” Christ will deliver us, but not according to law; only according to the direct will of God Almighty shall we ever be delivered. After we are saved, we are not going to desire to live in sin — there is no question about that. If our lives and hearts have not been changed, then we didn't get saved. Only Christ can deliver us. He wants to set us free, and He will set us free in our faith — according to His will....

***5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.***

~ I am convinced that most people today do not praise God enough. I'm certainly guilty of falling short. What was the first thing you thought about when you woke up this morning? We should all want glory to go to His Name! I don't want to stand on the sideline and compromise with the

craziness that defines the modern church today. Almost all of it belittles the Lord Jesus. Thank God there are a few Bible believing churches remaining. Jesus was God in the flesh. Forever and ever just happens to begin right now as I type this report and as you read it. From here, it moves on into eternity....

***6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:***

***7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.***

~ We haven't preached the Gospel unless we have stated the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those are facts we must receive by faith. Remember, Judaeizers had come into the Galatian country; and adding anything to the Gospel of Grace that says we have to do or believe *plus* doing something is a cult – period. Paul said to the Philippian jailer, “.... believe and thou shalt be saved.” Scripture tells us, “.... whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.” Any attempt whatsoever to alter or add to the Gospel makes it the opposite of what it is; that's really the wonder of it all, too, by the way....

***8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be damned.***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with some statements by Paul that are so strong I hesitate to use this translation to teach this section of Scripture. It cannot be any stronger than that. Anyone teaching anything other than what Paul was teaching was to be dismissed with an invective. I'm sure many of you think I am right, but only in so far as I go; and that I don't go far enough – well, this safari goes all the way – I promise you that. Keep reading. And let me ask you - have you prayed for me lately? ~

***9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

***10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.***

~ If you give the message I am going to give in this safari through Galatians, you'll be in serious trouble – you can just write that down. I'm going to explain exactly what that means in our next report. Let's just say that it is the Gospel of grace that an unregenerate man hates today – and most of them are church members. They think they need to do something which appeals to our flesh. No, friends, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ places us in the dust as it did Job, and it makes us beggars to receive of Him only. God does everything and we bring nothing – *NOTHING* – Absolute Zero to that table in order to be saved. This was a short report in our safari because this little bit is a lot to think about. I highly suggest you read this entire epistle completely through in one sitting; and then read it through again – and we'll continue on in this glorious Gospel in the next leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God ~

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