

Cause more to ~~win~~ preserve peace  
than to win it

veterans BEWITCHED BELIEVERS  
rarely burn us blaps

2:4  
5:1 5:13  
veterans

Text: Galatians 3:1-5

INTRO: Have you ever noticed the difference between new converts and older ones...in zeal, enthusiasm, joy, peace? **THEY END UP ON A LOWER NOTE THAN BEGANN ON.** DEF. OF PROGRESS: "Working as hard as we can to keep things as good as t they used to be." *we live in memories -*

*deify past, Deny present, Denial future*

A GLORIOUS BEGINNING and a TRAGIC ENDING...  
The fellowship no richer, the joy no greater, the peace no deeper.

1. The manifestations of the Spirit's power absent.
2. All their experiences were for nothing.

**THIS IS NOT A NEW PROBLEM, peculiar to our generation.** The Galatians...text:

**THEY HAD BEEN BEWITCHED:** Hypnotized, spellbound by an evil eye, LOST ALL SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION, "Foolish"

**WHAT WAS IT?** "Having begun in the Spirit are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" NOW APPROACHING MATURITY BY FLESHLY MEANS, human effort and energy.

THIS IS THE TRAGIC STORY OF MOST CONVERTS:  
A glorious conversion, a spiritual miracle, then we insert them into the machinery of modern Christianity and having been saved by GRACE THEY ARE NOW SANCTIFIED BY WORKS,

**MY PRAYER FOR NEW CONVERTS:** "Lord, don't let them end up like the rest!"

#THE GALATIANS, Judiazers, ceremonies of Moses, but the principle is the same, we complete what God started by activity, ritual, etc.

**THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER:** They were foolish lacking spiritual discernment and perception.

(2)

WHAT HAPPENS? Before we can be bewitched, paralyzed by the eye of another we must first take our eyes off something else.

*must*

I. WE FAIL TO APPRECIATE THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS.

To put it positively, if I am to progress to maturity, I must LEARN TO APPRECIATE THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS.

A. "Who hath bewitched YOU (emphatic), YOU OF ALL PEOPLE."

The prominent place of the Cross in Paul's preaching to them.

*not just off k, but crucified*

If they had kept their eyes on the cross they would not have fallen victim. Not enough that it is proclaimed PUBLICLY, must be pondered privately in the heart. IT IS THE NORTH STAR. When we lose our appreciation and fascination for the CROSS we are prey for the enemy.

B. If the cross no longer a wonder to us. Is it old hat. Did we pick it up at the entrance of the Life then exchange it along the way for something better.

C. I fear for a congregation that loses its awe of the cross...we often feel we've progressed beyond that.

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THAT CROSS?

1. I CAN'T! I am no more able to advance myself in the Christian life than I could save myself.

The great message of the cross is that man cannot meet his own spiritual needs, nor can the ornaments of religion. JUDIASM HIGHEST ETHICAL AND MORAL RELIGION, yet Christ had to die.

(3)

(1) Because of the weakness of the flesh.

Even if the flesh wanted to, it couldn't.  
"The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

ROMANS 8:7,8:

ILL- a shovel, the steel spoon but the wooden handle breaks

(2) Because of the <sup>sinfulness</sup> wickedness of the flesh.

Even if the flesh could, God wouldn't accept it because it is inherently, incurably wicked and sinful.

THE CROSS IS GOD CONDEMNING THE FLESH AND ALL ITS WORKS, even religions works!

\*\*God's work done in the flesh is the most sinful and repulsive and unacceptable to God.

THIS FLESH IS SUBTLE. If Satan can't get you to deny God, then serve God in the flesh.

(3) Because of the deceitfulness of the flesh.

These Galatians actually thought they were making progress, advancing in the Christian life. When they were retreating, regressing.

Christ saved us from the bondage of pleasing God by our efforts, etc. and to think that God is pleased with the abundance of our activity is regression.

(4)

1. GOD HAS! Christ cried out on cross, "It is FINISHED!" He didn't say, "I'm finished," but IT'S FINISHED.

What? Everything that needs to be done has been done. Our part is not to add to it but enter into it by simple trust.

OUR LIMITED VIEW OF THE CROSS: We view it only as an ~~historical~~ act, a past event, that accomplished our deliverance from hell and paid our way into heaven.

"CRUCIFIED" A perfect participle. A past act with continuing present results. It stands that way even today. An event in the past that spans time and reaches into the present with power.

CHRIST is the one to whom forever belongs the reproach and the glory of being a CRUCIFIED MESSIAH.

(1) In John 20 when Jesus appears to Thomas -- He is the resurrected, glorified ~~Lord~~ Lord... but HE STILL HAS THE PRINTS OF THE NAILS!!! He is still the CRUCIFIED SAVIOUR.

In Rev. 5:6 "A lamb as it had been slain..." Even in that celestial glory, Jesus still wears the marks of his death.

In eternity you and I will have all marks of past erased in our new body, but throughout eternity, Jesus will gloriously wear the scars of ~~his~~ His sacrifice. WHEN JESUS COMES TO US NOW, HE COMES AS THE CRUCIFIED SAVIOUR.

WHEN WE GO TO HIM, WE WILL GO TO HIM AS THE CRUCIFIED SAVIOUR.

In Ezekiel, the waters that flowed from the throne passed by the altar...and everything we are and all we do must be by the cross.

(5)

ILL- JOHN JASPER: "Rhapsody in Black" Black slave saved and called to preach.

When I die I'm goin up to them pearly gates and I'm gonna rattle them pearly gates. And St. Peter will ~~look~~ look out and say, "What's an old black sinner like you doing here?"

I'll say, "Mas Peter, this book said the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin."

And ~~Peter~~ Mas Peter will say, "John Jasper, if you're going to talk like that, you'd better come on in here."

## II. WE FAIL TO APPROPRIATE THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT.

THE ISSUE: How is the Christian Life to be lived to completion, to maturity? The issue can be solved with one question.

Paul asked Galatians, "This ONLY would I learn of you..." This single question will be enough to reveal the nature of the Christian Life.

Paul argues from their own experience. They themselves show the error of their way. Their own experience proves them wrong.

"HOW WERE YOU SAVED?" How did you receive the Spirit (synonymous with Salvation)? By the works of law (no definite article, not Mosiac Law, but system of rules and regulations) or by hearing and believing?

NOTE PAUL'S EMPHASIS ON BEGINNING AND ENDING...  
You end the same way to started...you don't change natures in the middle of the life.

A TREE LIVES ACCORDING TO THE SEED FROM WHICH IT SPRANG. Every living being is always guided by the nature it received at its birth. A cow will never become a fish, dogs won't fly.

(6)

They had abandoned the Spirit for the System.

They exchanged supernatural for natural...failed to appropriate ministry of Spirit.

1. The Christian Life Begins With the Reception of the Spirit.

V. 2, Eph. 1:13,14. ✓

- (1) This reveals the NATURE OF THE LIFE...  
A. Spiritual--not mechanical  
B. A Gift -- not earned

Ezekiel 36: He gives us a new spirit, then gives us His Spirit to indwell our new Spirit.

- (2) This reveals the NEEDS OF THIS LIFE.

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They are spiritual. Many are spiritual starved.  
"The words that I speak are spirit and life."

Mere activity, etc can never feed me spiritually

When we are weak and undernourished physically, we susceptible to disease. SAME SPIRITUALLY... note the Galatians vulnerability to error.

I need bread don't give me a stone.

2. The Christian Life Continues With Our Reliance on the Spirit. Only He can complete what He commenced.

Vs. 5-- Ministereth: Greek, supply a chorus or choir and pay all its expenses. Lavish abundant

Vs. 5 -- deeds of power IN YOU... As the Spirit pours out lavishly, power is worked IN us.

HOW? By hearing and believing...FAITH, TRUST

Trust & obey, for there is no other way