

#2 Galatians

Tom Tillman

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households (through the television) and make captives of gullible women (and men) loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning (always buying their books and CD's, taking copious notes) and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.' 2 Tim 3:1
That's exactly where we are today, both out in the World and throughout much of the Church.

The Left will do literally everything within its power to disrupt every aspect of life before this election and it will all be compounded exponentially with the death of Justice Ginsburg, leaving an open Supreme Court seat, with the Left having lost its most liberal advocate on the Court.

What happened with Brett Kavanaugh will have been tame, by comparison, to what's coming.

The Left is willing to destroy the fabric of this great Nation in order to gain and hold power.

But never forget what is most important: God is in complete control. He has already determined what will occur in the next few weeks and months. He neither sleeps nor slumbers. He has either decided to allow our Country to quickly fall to anarchy or that Trump will be reelected allowing the Court to shift to a more Conservative bent, giving the Country a temporary reprieve while allowing the true Church to lead even more people to Salvation before the Rapture.

We know that, without doubt, the Left will do everything possible to remove Trump; they will threaten, they will continue to riot and destroy, and they will cheat; that is their goal with their all out push for mail-in voting. I think it was Stalin who said, it's not the voter who decides the election but, rather, he who counts the vote.

Many things are piling up to deny Trump's reelection: The Chinese virus, moral and economic collapse, the 'Deep State' of imbedded bureaucrats working to take him down, increased democrat voters from illegal immigration, and, of course, democrat cheating... it's almost always democrats when cheating is found.

Satan is determined to destroy this president. Humanly speaking, he is the only thing standing in the way of the coming global order with one world government which will seek to bring in the Antichrist. Either, as He did with Gideon, Sampson, Joshua, David and so many others, God will thwart the enemy with a far outnumbered 'army' through which He will glorify Himself or He will allow the USA to fall, leading to His glorification when He returns at Armageddon.

Either way, He will win and we, too, by extension, will eternally win. We have nothing to fear; we have only to wait and to watch Him accomplish His will: 'And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." Ex 14:13

And so, we shall return to the business at hand: studying God's Word together and hopefully drawing ever closer to Him.

Verse 11: 'But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.'

A special 'Gospel' was given to Paul which was to be taught, through his letters, to believers down through the centuries. Paul refers to it as 'my Gospel.' Of course, it's the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but it was given, by special revelation, to Paul. Paul's Gospel is not what Jesus taught His disciples and the crowds. He taught 'the Gospel of the Kingdom.' Paul's 'Gospel of Grace' and the 'Gospel of the Kingdom' are not the same. The Gospel of the Kingdom teaches, 'the Kingdom of God is at hand;' the physical Kingdom of God is ready to be revealed. For three and a half years, that is what Jesus taught: 'The Kingdom of God and Its King are at hand. You can enter that Kingdom if you will receive it but if you reject the Kingdom and Its rightful King, it will be taken from you and given to others:' He said, "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" ⁴¹ They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his

vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

⁴³ “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.”⁴⁴ And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

⁴⁵ Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them.’
Matt 21:40

Israel did not receive it; they rejected both the Kingdom and the King. Because they rejected it, the offer was withdrawn while Israel, the Nation and the People, were '*set on a shelf and put on the back burner,*' as it were. Then, God put into effect a brand new, never before revealed, dispensation, His dispensation of Grace while He set about creating a brand new, never before revealed people, drawn from every tribe, people, tongue and nation, His long-planned Bride for His Son, the Church.

Israel has always been the 'Earthly' people of God. We, the true Church, are the 'Heavenly' people of God. Two different peoples have been offered two different Gospels: the Gospel of the Kingdom and Paul's Gospel of Grace. At the moment of the Rapture, the Gospel of Grace will be withdrawn and the Gospel of the Kingdom will be reinstated. That will be the Gospel preached by the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists of Revelation chapter 7. During that time, salvation will revert back to how it was during the Old Testament. People were required to place their faith in the coming Messiah and there will, once again, be no more assurance of salvation like there is, now, with we who are born again. We are eternally secure, no matter what. The Holy Spirit lives within us, One with our spirits; nothing can ever remove us from His possession. They, during the Tribulation, will have to maintain their faith through every terrible trial, especially in rejecting the Mark of the Beast and even through the fire of execution.

Paul is saying that the Gospel, salvation, assurance, every part of what he was now preaching was unlike anything known to man heretofore. Even Judaism as it had evolved during his time and after was like every other false religion throughout the World; all are based on man's work to be acceptable to God.

The same is true today; any synagogue you might wander into, whether reformed, orthodox, ultraorthodox or anything else, other than a genuine Messianic congregation, is a false religion which is absolutely against the true Gospel of Jesus Christ; they hate the Lord Jesus Christ. At least, the Muslims consider Him a prophet.

Judaism, as it has morphed through the centuries, is no less a false religion than Islam or Buddhism or any other. And that is exactly the problem with many 'Hebrew Roots' teachers and groups today: rather than quoting Christians, true believers of the past, they look to past Jewish Rabbis for their deep spiritual quotes: 'Rabbi so & so said...' '... quoting rabbi so & so...' Rabbi so & so was every bit as lost and godless as any other false religious teacher, past, present or future.

The collected oral explanations and interpretations of the Old Testament Law from centuries of Rabbis, called the Halakah, came to be held in as high or higher authority than the Law of Moses itself. Their rules and strictures had become impossible to follow. These were the rules of the Pharisees which Jesus condemned.

That said, Jews and Israel remain God's chosen Earthly people, His hand is on them and we are responsible, before God, to love them, to bless them and to pray for them.

Verse 13: 'For you have heard of my former conduct in the Jew's religion, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure and *tried to* destroy it.¹⁴ And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous **for the traditions of my fathers.**'

The traditions of the fathers had come to hold even greater authority than Scripture in the very same way that the traditions of Catholicism, even when contradicting Scripture, hold greater authority than Scripture.

Paul had hated the true Church while trying to destroy it. He is the one who, as a young man, was holding to cloaks for those who were stoning Stephen, the first martyr of the Church.

Verse 15: 'But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace,'

Paul affirms two very important truths in this one phrase: the **Election of God**, that He chose, for Himself, a people taken from every tongue, tribe and nation, before He even laid the foundation of the World and the **Effectual Call of God**, when He awakens, enlightens, calls and draws the unbeliever to Himself.

The Election of God and the Effectual Call of God are dependent only on the good pleasure of God. He did not choose and does not call according to any good thing in any person; it is all and only according to His will and His divine purposes. 'What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." ¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." ¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.' Rom 9:14

¹And you **He made alive, who were dead** in trespasses and sins, ... ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that **not of yourselves; it is the gift of God**, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ **For we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2
'And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.' Rom 8:28
'Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.' James 1:18

Verse 16: 'to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.'

This, immediately after his call and conversion, is when Paul spent 3 years, whether in Heaven or not, being taught by the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself. There are 11 Mysteries revealed in the New Testament; One was revealed by Jesus Christ, Who was, actually, still in Old Testament times: the Mystery of the Incarnation, God taking on a Human Body. Two were revealed to John in the Revelation: the Mystery of the 7 stars and 7 candlesticks and the Mystery, Babylon the Great. Seven Mysteries were revealed to, and taught by, Paul:

1. The Mystery of the Divine Indwelling: 'Christ in you, the hope of Glory.'
2. The Mystery of the Union of Jews and Gentiles in One Body Called the Church.
3. The Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven: also described through 12 Parables in Matthew.
4. The Mystery of the Translation of the Living Saints: the Rapture.
5. The Mystery of Israel's Blindness: 'For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.' Rom 11:25
6. The Mystery of Iniquity: the Antichrist, the Son of Perdition.
7. The Mystery of the Church as the Bride of Christ.
8. The Mystery of the Restoration of All Things, or, the Mystery of His Will: the culmination of God's Plan with the destruction and recreation of Heaven and Earth.

These are the things Peter referred to when he wrote: 'Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.' 2 Pet 3

Verse 18: 'Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (Now *concerning* the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

Paul was being accused of lying and deception. He met with Peter for 15 days to compare notes, to make certain they were teaching truth, together, with James. Peter was the main Apostle to the Jews, along with James and John while Paul was the main Apostle to the Gentiles.

Verse 21: 'Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which *were* in Christ. ²³ But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once *tried to* destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God in me.'

After 3 years, he went up to Jerusalem where he met with Peter and James for 15 days. After that he went to his own home area: remember, he is from Tarsus which is in the province of Cilicia in present day Central Turkey. Israel was basically divided into thirds: Southern Israel is Judea; Central Israel is Samaria while Northern Israel is Galilee. Today, Judea and Samaria comprise what the World calls, 'the West Bank.'

In Israel, they only knew Paul by reputation: the one who was doing his best to kill all Christians. They were probably reluctant to trust too completely until they saw proof. Still, they did glorify God.

Chapter 2:1: 'Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with *me*. ² And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.'

After 14 years Paul went again to Jerusalem to report the Gospel Jesus Christ had given him to preach. Paul had been preaching in his home area, Cilicia, and when those in Jerusalem, Peter, James and John heard of revival, there, they sent Barnabas to investigate and to invite Paul back to Jerusalem to report. Rather than proudly refuse, Paul went, taking Titus, a Gentile, with him as proof that the Gospel was also meant for the Gentiles.

Jesus Christ, by revelation, had instructed Paul to return to Jerusalem. Even though God will have used Paul in the writing of most of the New Testament, his writings were not 'more inspired' than those of Peter, James or John or any of the writers of the Gospels. And also, the words of Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Gospels are not more important or more inspired than those of any of the New Testament writers. This is one way that Satan fosters disbelief or distrust in God's Word, by false teachers claiming that the Words of Jesus, the words in red, are more important and more binding on us. Today's '*red-letter christians*,' led by Tony Compolo, are such false teachers. Every word that God inspired, all of what is in the Bible are the Words of God. (ex:)

'All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.' 2 Tim 3:16

Here is an example of the heresy that are the red letter 'christians:' from their website: '*In Christ, we find a God who deliberately gave up power to control everything in order to save the World through sacrificial love.*' and, '*The Danish Option, (which the 'church' in Denmark did) which Red Letter Christians would promote, is a call to all Christians to register as Muslims, should the registration of Muslims be required.*'

They, along with so many other false teachers of today, seek to undermine the crucial teaching of Paul: N.T. Wright among them, that Paul is wrong about Penal Substitution, Christ taking the Wrath of God in our place, and so much more that would take several class-times to cover. The reality is, today, so much, so, so much of the false church, masquerading as the true Church, seeks to undermine the truth of the true Gospel. (see the first words of today's lesson)

Verse 3: 'Yet not even Titus who *was* with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.' They agreed that the Gospel was, in fact, also meant for the Gentiles while Titus, who'd been holding his breath, cried out, 'Praise the Lord!'