

- I) V12 INTRO: Brethren I urge you to become as I am for I am as you are You have As we read his letters, we see that Paul was **a masterful theologian**
- II) The Apostle Peter was well taught, and his theology was spiritually deep With that said, **even Peter** acknowledged the depth of Paul's insights 2 Pe 3:16 (Paul) writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. **His letters contain some things that are hard to understand**, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.
- III) Some things take time, teaching, and experience to better understand They also require the work of the Holy Spirit Jn 14:26 (Jesus said) the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you
SO PAUL WAS A MASTER THEOLOGIAN
- IV) What I want to emphasize is that he was also a genuine spiritual shepherd His writings speak abundantly of his shepherd's sacrificial love for the sheep
- V) Jesus taught us about the love of a shepherd Jn 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down His life** for the sheep
WHY WAS PAUL CONCERNED
- VI) He was concerned because he was **a shepherd** over the churches of Galatia Wolves had entered the church and were deceiving and taking them captive Gal 1:6-7 tells us that they were **deserting grace**, **embracing legalism**, and being **troubled** and agitated by a **corrupted** and perverted message of salvation
- VII) The false teachers were insisting the Galatians follow the requirements of the Law They were teaching them to observe days, months, seasons, and years In 5:1, Paul spoke of this as **a yoke of bondage**
- VIII) Instead of bondage, Paul had delivered to them the gospel of grace
- IX) (3:24) The law was a tutor that led us to receive the grace of God through Jesus They had become God's children by grace, **through faith in Jesus Christ** (3:26)
- X) The **false teachers** were taking them into bondage Some were deserting Jesus, and Paul began to wonder if he had labored in vain

- I) Out of concern and love for them, Paul had to come to the rescue of the sheep
This is a shepherd's concern, one that is shown in other letters
- II) We saw this clearly in 2 Co, another church infiltrated by Jewish legalism
2 Co 11:2-3 I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God Himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband, Christ. But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ **will be corrupted**, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent.
- KEY**
- III) Paul deeply loved the Church and was constantly concerned for its spiritual life
His faithfulness to God and the gospel and love for them moved him to intervene
- PRACTICAL**
- IV) Immature and untaught Christians today would think he was interfering
They would think that he was making too much of a small issue
- V) Paul knew that he was to **proclaim** the message, and to **defend** it from heresy
Phil 1:17 (Paul wrote) he was appointed for the defense of the gospel
- VI) The church is also to **be equipped** with understanding through **proper teaching**
It also comes through personal reading and being ready to share
1 Pe 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect
- VII) He was concerned for the spiritual life of these people
He did not want his labor amongst them to amount to nothing
2 Jn 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.
- VIII) He is not giving up on them, but does fear that some of them **may not know Jesus**
It wasn't enough that most of them knew Jesus
Paul wanted every one of them to know Jesus: how many is too many?
- FACT**
- IX) It caused him great personal pain to have to admonish and correct the church
Still, because of their situation, he has had to do just that for their spiritual good
Phil 3:1 Further my brothers and sisters rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and **it is a safeguard for you**

I) With this in mind, he continues his letter

BEGIN STUDY

II) V12 I urge you to **become as I am** for I am as you are. You have not injured me

FIRST: BECOME LIKE I AM

III) I am **living in the grace** and freedom of the Lord, **and so should you**

Become as I am, because i am dead to the Law, but alive in Jesus

Gal 2:19-20 I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I am crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

IV) Paul planted the churches in Galatian on his first missionary journey (44 AD)

This made him their spiritual father, and he wanted them to imitate his faith

1 Co 11:1 Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ

Phil 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

V) Paul was freed from the law by grace, and he wanted them to be free too

VI) V12 For I am as you are

I am a sinner, saved by the grace of God through Jesus

1 Ti 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners**, of whom I am chief

VII) Before coming to faith in Jesus, I had every advantage a Jew could have

Phil 3:4-7 If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eight day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

VIII) The only way either Jew or Gentile, could be at peace with God is through Jesus

It isn't through the law of Moses, but by faith in Jesus

CONSIDER THIS

IX) I paid a very costly price, as a Jewish Rabbi, by coming to Jesus

Phil 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, **for whom I have suffered the loss of all things**, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

I) Don't be intimidated by the Judaizers into embracing the slavery to the Law

II) You have not injured me at all: I do not take this personally: it isn't about me

QUOTE

III) When Christians turn away from the truth, and disregard the instructions and exhortations of pastors, and become conformed to the world, **it is not a personal matter**, or a matter of **personal offence** to them, painful as it may be to them. They have no special reason to say that they are **personally injured**. It is a higher matter. (It is) the cause (of Jesus and the gospel that) suffers.

THE FACT IS

IV) Any injury you have caused would be to the gospel and to your own spiritual lives
By embracing the error you alter the gospel and deprive yourselves spiritually

V) V13-15 **You know that because of physical infirmity** I preached the gospel to you at
He now recalls the way they had treated him when he first came to them

BACKGROUND

VI) Ac 16:6 records how Paul had traveled through Phrygia and Galatia
The Spirit had not moved them to stay long, so they continued their travels
Though there temporarily, Paul had shared the message of the gospel

VII) V13 It would seem Paul had been detained in Galatia because of severe illness
Infirmity: Feebleness of health or sickness in the body

VIII) Paul's preaching to the Galatians the first time **was due to sickness** of some kind
Perhaps it was **eye trouble**, which was a trial to them (V15)
Some commentators believe that he had an attack of malaria

IX) Either he became sick while there, or sickness had caused him to go there

X) At first glance, his even going to Galatia may have appeared coincidental
God often orchestrates circumstances to achieve His plans

XI) This happened when Paul was in jail

Phil 1:12-13 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that **I am in chains for Christ**
His circumstances became an opportunity to preach

- I) Paul makes it clear that he had suffered sickness
This should make it clear that even the most faith filled believers can fall ill
BRIEFLY
- II) Briefly, we need to be aware of the winds of doctrine that undermine faith
One of those winds is the error that healing is guaranteed to the believer
This is not only error, but it is responsible for undermining hope and faith
- III) Paul here speaks of himself suffering an illness
1 Ti 5:23 (Timothy) no longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent ailments
2 Ti 4:20 Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick
- IV) Healing is not guaranteed but is often the path God allows to increase faith
Paul's illness actually was used to open a door to preach the gospel
- V) V14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not **despise** or **reject**
Whatever it was that he was suffering with did not close the door to preaching
- VI) **Despise** speaks of ignoring or regarding as without value
Reject is a strong word, speaking of being disgusted with, or to **spit out**
- VII) Instead of ignoring me and being disgusted, you received me with respect
You treated me with kindness and welcomed me, even as you would Jesus
- VIII) Instead of rejecting me, you saw me as an ambassador of Jesus
2 Co 5:20 We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.
WHY DID YOU DO THIS?
- IX) V15 What then **was the blessing** you enjoyed? For I bear witness that if possible
What was, at the first, the source of your being blessed?
- X) When I came preaching the grace of God in Jesus, you were overjoyed
The message of grace thrilled your soul, and you declared yourselves so blessed
QUESTION
- XI) Was your joy the result of living under Jewish law?
Did I preach the Law of Moses was it by obeying the law, you were blessed?

- I) Or, was the cause of **your initial joy** and blessedness because of God's grace
Under grace, you had joy, peace, comfort, blessings, love, and freedom
What happened? Don't you remember what it was like when you were saved?
- II) The love you had for me and gratitude was immense
- III) V15 I bear you witness that if possible you would have plucked out your own eyes
From the beginning, you loved me, and received the message of grace I preached
You would have sacrificed your own sight for me!
BRIEFLY
- IV) It would seem obvious that Paul had poor eyesight
There seems to be evidence of this throughout his writings
1 Co 16:21 I, Paul, write this greeting **in my own hand**.
Col 4:18 I, Paul, write this greeting **in my own hand**.
2 Th 3:17 I, Paul, write this greeting **in my own hand**, which is the distinguishing
mark in all my letters. This is how I write.
Gal 6:11 See what large letters I have written **with my own hand**
CONTINUING
- V) You received me as an angel of God, or even like Jesus Himself!
What happened? What changed?
- VI) V16 Have I therefore become your enemy **because I tell you the truth?**
Those who believed the heresy were guilty of losing love for Paul, and the truth
- VII) One of the tactics of dividers is to separate the teacher from the sheep
In the case of Paul, they encouraged the believers to consider Paul their enemy
Pr 9:8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will
love you.
- VIII) Have the false teachers succeeded in turning you against me, and the truth?
Have they convinced you that because I tell the truth that I am not your friend
- IX) To undermine the message, they attempted to convince them Paul was unloving
ACCUSATIONS
- X) He was in error, opinionated, harsh, ignorant and an authoritarian
By the fact that he came against them, you could see he was an unloving bully

- I) Paul taught confidently and was strong in how he presented the message
He was also willing to go to the mat for things that were true

EXAMPLE

- II) He did this with the apostle Peter when he had to confront him for his hypocrisy
He stopped eating with Gentiles when Jewish legalists had come to Jerusalem
He withstood Peter and confronted him for this behavior

- III) Some thought that he was too forceful and unloving

Because of this Paul asks them if he is now their enemy for telling the truth

REMEMBER

- IV) Telling the truth is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a godly person
Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices

PAUL'S POINT

- V) Telling them the truth was not being their enemy, but was really loving them
Telling them the truth was setting them free from the error of the false teachers

REMEMBER

- VI) There are certain doctrines that are essential to the Christian faith
Some things we can openly disagree with, but others are essentials
These are the teachings that the church has held to for its entire history

- VII) These are the things that are to be taught, and defended
The deity of Jesus, the virgin birth, the atonement, the resurrection, the inspiration of scripture, the trinity, salvation by faith, through grace

- VIII) These are essentials and these are to be held fast to
If anyone differs from these and adds or takes away, they are to be avoided
Ro 16:17 I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. **Keep away from them.**

- IX) This is what Paul has already made very clear

Gal 1:8-9 Even if we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed

PAUL IS TELLING THEM THE TRUTH

- I) We also are to tell the truth
We don't share it with anger or meanness of spirit, but with concern
Eph 4:15 (speaks of believers) speaking the truth **in love**
QUOTE
- II) Some people speak the truth **with no love**, and some people talk about love **without truth**.
- III) V17 They zealously court you but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you
They work overtime to win you over to their beliefs
They show you concern, pay attention to you, listen patiently in order to win you
- IV) In many ways they seem more available and more attentive to you
They do this, not out of love and devotion to God, but to win you over
They do not do this so that you will have a relationship with the true God
- V) Most cults seem to truly care about you when they are pursuing you
Once they have you, they stop caring
They are only seeking converts, and then they move on: they are seducers
- VI) The result is ruining homes and making merchandise of you
Titus 1:10-11 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach --and that for the sake of dishonest gain.
- VII) V17 they want to exclude you that you may be zealous **for them**
They want to draw you away from me, and the blessings of the gospel
THEIR INTENTIONS ARE OBVIOUS
- VIII) If they can alienate you from me, they will be able to control you
If they can undermine my spiritual influence, they will be able to take you captive
- IX) The true mission of a pastor is to encourage people to be like Jesus
It is not to make people into their fan club, but to encourage them to love Jesus
Ac 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples **after themselves**.

- I) V18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am
To zealously seek to **honor God is good**
- II) Zeal for a good thing is what he did, and they ought to imitate his example
This is something he told the Ephesian elders
Ac 20:18-20 And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all **humility**, with many **tears** and **trials** which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how **I kept back nothing that** was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house
- III) V19 My little children for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you
My precious children, those I dearly love I agonize for you to become mature
Eph 4:15 (let us grow) in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body the church
- IV) What causes a pastor the most joy
3 Jn 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth
- V) V20 I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone for I have
I wish I could be there, that I might see how you truly are: I am concerned
QUOTE
- VI) The Church needs people who, in listening to their pastor, listen for the message of Christ, and pastors who, in laboring among the people, look for the image of Christ