

Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith
(Galatians 2:1-21) “*Confidence In the Christian Life*”

~ GOOD MORNING ~

IF YOU'RE HERE VISITING TODAY...

- My name is Justan...
 - One of the Assistant Pastors

AS I MENTIONED LAST WEEK...

- Pastor Jeff is taking a few weeks off...
 - And I have the privilege of teaching through *Galatians!*
- Turn to the book of ([Galatians 2:1-21](#)) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK...

- We introduced an overview of Galatians...
 - A letter written to people who had a reputation of being fickle...
 - And who were quickly departing from the faith.

FOR US... GALATIANS TEACHES US...

- The balance of the gospel: Grace & truth
 - Instead of a grace-choking legalistic Christianity...
 - OR a truth rejecting loose Christianity.
- About personally experiencing grace...
 - To **underscore** the truth of the gospel.
 - ([Chapters 1-2](#))
- About the doctrinal truth of grace...
 - To give us **confidence** in our salvation.
 - ([Chapters 3-4](#))
- About the practical evidence of grace...
 - Which proves the **reality** of our salvation.
 - ([Chapters 5-6](#))
- How to answer the question...
 - How do I know I'm saved?

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THEREFORE...

- The title of our series is...
 - “*Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith*”

REMEMBER HOW GALATIANS FITS...

- Into our regular weekend study through (Acts)...
 - Around (Chapter 16)...
 - After the leaders of the Church...
 - Made the decision regarding the Gentile believers.

PAUL AND TIMOTHY...

- Went to the established churches...
 - Strengthening these believers...
 - With these truths.

THIS IS THE AIM OF THIS SERIES...

- To strengthen W.C. in the faith...
 - That God would continue His work of building His church...
 - Over these few weeks.

~STUDY~

TODAY...

- We’re exploring Chapter 2...
 - Which covers:
 - The finality of Paul’s defense of his ministry...
 - And a sneak peak into the main topic of *Galatians*...
 - ⇒ Justification by faith alone!

WE’RE GOING TO WALK AWAY...

- With a few point of application...
 - To help us combat the fickleness in our lives...
 - And gain confidence in our walk with Jesus.

SO NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message...
 - “*Confidence In the Christian Life*”

(Read vv. 1-10)

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~ LET'S PRAY ~

HERE'S A FEW THINGS...

- For us to walk away with:

~ IDEA # 1 – “Showing Results of Salvation” (vv.1-10) ~

WE BEGIN TODAY...

- By building on where we left off last week...
 - Paul defending his ministry.

JUDAIZERS HAD ATTACKED PAUL...

- Telling the churches in Galatia...
 - His apostleship was illegitimate...
 - Which means his ministry is illegitimate.

BUT WE SAW LAST WEEK...

- How there had been a change throughout his life...
 - By the power of the gospel he was preaching.
 - (1:13-24)

AND...

- There are a few things that stood out to me this week...
 - As he explains the fruit from his ministry.

(vv. 1-3)

FIRST... THERE WAS UNITY...

- Between the ministry leaders...
 - Jerusalem = leaders of the Church
 - Barnabas = A Jewish believer
 - Titus = Greek (gentile) believer

⇒ Does unity or division describe your Christian life?

(vv. 4-5)

SECOND... OTHERS TRIED TO...

- Influence the outcome of his ministry...
 - But he didn't yield...

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- Because he was confident before the Lord.

⇒ Who are you allowing to influence your Christianity?

(vv. 6-10)

THIRD... HIS CALLING WAS CONFIRMED...

- By the leaders of the church...
 - Because they recognized Paul...
 - Was gifted to reach the gentiles.

⇒ What’s your gift & calling?

OUR EMPHASIS TODAY...

- Comes from (v. 2)...
 - “... *for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running in vain*” NLT

⇒ Have you ever felt this way?

TURN WITH ME TO...

- (Philippians 2:12-16) NLT

1. Show the results of salvation (v. 12b)
2. Allow the Spirit to lead your life (v. 13)
 - a. “*Is **this** desire from the Spirit?*”
3. Do everything without complaining & arguing (v. 14)
4. Contrasting culture (v. 15)
5. Grounded in the Word (v. 16a)
6. You will be confident in the race! (v. 16b)

THE POINT IS...

- Working hard to show the results of our salvation...
 - Gives us confidence in the Christian life...
 - And these are a few #ProTips to help!

IF YOU USED THESE TIPS...

- Would you grow as a Christian?
 - Would your walk be more fruitful?
 - Not as a religious process...

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⇒ But as a pathway to move forward.

(Read vv. 11-14)

~ IDEA #2 – “Avoiding Compromising Conduct” (vv. 11-14) ~

NEXT PAUL WILL EXPLAIN FOR US...

- An interaction he had with Peter...
 - That turned out to be confrontational.

(vv. 11-13)

THE SITUATION:

- At first...
 - Peter would eat with Gentiles
 - Something that Jewish people would never do!
- When friends of James (Judaizers) came...
 - Peter would only eat with Jews.
 - For fear of criticism.

CONTRAST THIS SITUATION...

- With what Luke tells us about...
 - In (Acts 11:1-4, 15-18) NLT.

WHAT HAPPENED...

- That made these two situations...
 - So different?!
 - **Fear** led to fickle faith and lack of confidence in the Lord.

LOOK WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS ABOUT PETER’S FEAR...

- First, he “*withdrew*” himself...
 - To draw back; metaphorically, lowering a sail and so slacking the course, and hence being remiss in holding the truth.
- Next, he “*separated*” himself...
 - To mark off boundaries or limits.

⇒ **Side note:** Fear limits the influence we have in our community.

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- Finally, “*hypocrisy*” set in & He drew others away...
 - To join in acting the hypocrite
 - Pretending to act from one motive whereas another motive really inspired the act.

WE CAN CLEARLY SEE...

- Even Peter struggled...
 - To “*confidently live the Christian life*” at times.

BUT WHAT’S THE WARNING FOR US?

- How do we navigate situations like this?
 - Turn to (1 Corinthians 4:2-5) NLT

HERE’S THE POINT...

- Fear is indicative of fickle faith...
 - And fear of criticism leads us into compromising conduct...
 - But faithfulness breeds confidence!

⇒ (Dan. 6:4) NLT

"Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy."

ASK YOURSELF...

- What am I fearing today?
 - Criticism from a friend / family / co-worker?
 - ⇒ Be faithful - Don't compromise
 - Taking a step of faith to honor God?
 - ⇒ Obey - Don't compromise
 - Letting go of past hurt or failures?
 - ⇒ Forgive - don't compromise

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- Trusting God to provide your needs?
⇒ Walk by faith - don't compromise

THIS IS ALSO AN EXAMPLE...

- Of why we should be consistently going to church...
 - Allowing others to speak into our lives.

PAUL'S RESPONSE (vv. 14-21)...

- “*When I saw they we're not following the truth of the Gospel...*” NLT

- He confronted Peter...
 - With Gospel truth...
 - To get him back on track.

“Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls...” (Hebrews 13:17 NLT)

(Read vv. 15-21)

~IDEA #3 – “Determine to Die to Self” (vv. 15-21) ~

NOW... PAUL BEGINS TO EXPLAIN...

- Justification by faith...
 - Through the grace of God...
 - Based on the finished work of Jesus Christ.

(vv. 15-19)

FIRST... PAUL TEACHES US...

- The Christian is dead to the law (Righteous law of Moses)...
 - When he trusted Christ for salvation.

TRYING TO ADHERE TO THE LAW...

- Would be rebuilding something that was destroyed...
 - And completed when Christ was crucified on the cross.

(vv. 20-21)

THIS IS THE APPLICATION OF JUSTIFICATION...

- Which was true for Peter's situation...
 - And powerful in our lives as well.

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THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT OF MINDSET...

- That will totally transform each of our lives...
 - “... *no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me*” (v. 20) NLT

COMMENTATORS...

- J. F. Walvord & R. B. Zuck said this about Paul’s statement...

*“Having been thus united to Christ, believers share in His death, burial, and resurrection. Paul could therefore write, **I have been** “crucified with Christ” (lit., “I have been and am now crucified with Christ”). This brought death to the Law. It also brought a change in regard to one’s self: **and I no longer live**. The self-righteous, self-centered Saul died. Further, death with Christ ended Paul’s enthronement of self; he yielded the throne of his life to Another, to Christ. But it was not in his own strength that Paul was able to live the Christian life; the living Christ Himself took up His abode in Paul’s heart: **Christ lives in me.**”*

BECAUSE OF THIS TRUTH...

- It’s not legal obedience...
 - Or striving toward righteous actions...
 - That release the divine power to live a Christian life...
 - **It’s faith!**

SO WHAT’S THE SECRET...

- To having confidence in the Christian life?
 - (Colossians 1:27) NLT

HERE’S THE POINT FOR US...

- Confidently living the Christian life...
 - Looks like allowing Christ to live through you...
 - Because you’re motives & desires have been crucified. (dead)

~ IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM) ~

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION...

- Comes by faith in the promises of God...
 - We combat our doubts by faith – trusting God.

HOWEVER...

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- Wasting our efforts on our selfish agenda
- Living in fear
- Compromising in conduct
 - Undermine our confidence in our salvation.

DOES THAT DESCRIBE...

- How you're feeling today?

DO YOU NEED...

- Assurance of salvation?
 - Confidence in your walk with Jesus?
 - To turn your heart to Him for the first time?