

Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith  
(Galatians 1:1-24)  
“Combating Fickle Faith”

~ FATHER'S DAY ~

TODAY IS A DAY THAT WE HONOR THE DAD'S IN OUR LIFE...

- The role that God has given us to play is not an easy one...
  - And it requires much of the grace of God.

WHETHER YOU ARE A DAD...

- Or have stepped into the role of dad...
  - Or would like to be a dad...
    - Please stand up.

GOD HAS ALLOWED US TO INFLUENCE THE NEXT GENERATION...

- That we might lead / love / care for / encourage...
  - And point them to Christ.
    - May we take this role seriously!

~ LET'S PRAY ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Galatians 1:1-24) NLT

~ BACKGROUND ~

PASTOR JEFF HAS BEEN TEACHING US THROUGH ACTS...

- When we left off we learned about...
  - Conflict about the essentials & non-essentials of the gospel
  - Paul's second missionary journey...
    - Where Timothy was added to the church
  - Paul took the gospel & decision of the Elders in Jerusalem...
    - To the churches throughout regions (including Galatia).
    - (Acts 16:4-5 NKJV)

*"And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily."*

THIS IS THE AIM OF THIS SERIES...

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- To strengthen W.C. in the faith...
  - That God would continue His work in this church...
    - Over these six weeks.

~ INTRO ~

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS PICKS UP...

- Right around this time in Paul's life...
  - Where he writes to these churches to combat...
    - The influence of false teachers...
      - Working to add to the gospel of grace...
        - With works of legalism.

SECULAR HISTORY TELLS US...

- The people of Galatia were fickle.
  - Quick and easy to change their mind...
    - For new & curious things.

THEY HAD BEEN MANIPULATED...

- Into thinking that the perfect work of...
  - Jesus' crucifixion / death / resurrection...
    - Wasn't enough to satisfy the way for salvation.
  - And instead had to improve on it...
    - With external works of legalism.
      - (Circumcision)

THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN ALL IDENTIFY WITH...

- Because we forget that God's grace is not just for being born again...
  - But also for growing as a Christian.
- We tend to try to act righteous to be accepted...
  - OR to *“stay on God's good side”*

GALATIANS TEACHES US...

- The balance of the gospel: Grace & truth
  - Instead of a grace-choking legalistic Christianity...
  - OR a truth rejecting loose Christianity.

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- 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?

THEREFOR...

- I’ve titled this series...
  - *“Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith”*
- And today’s message...
  - *“Combating Fickle Faith”*

*(Read vv. 1-5)*

~STUDY~

IN THIS OPENING CHAPTER...

- Paul begins combatting their fickle faith...
  - By pointing out the error of their way.

HE WRITES TO CHRISTIANS IN GALATIA...

- With such urgency & passion...
  - Beginning with shifting the focus back on Christ...
  - Teaching them they’ve been influenced by a twisted truth...
  - And underscoring a life effected by authentic truth.

HERE’S A FEW THINGS...

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- For us to walk away with today:

**~ IDEA # 1 – “Focus on Grace” (V.1-5) ~**

THEY HAD BEEN MANIPULATED INTO BELIEVING...

- The gospel they received wasn't enough to save them...
  - They had to do more to add to the work of Christ.

THEY HAD SUCCOMED TO THEIR NATURAL TENDENCIES...

- And quickly deserted the foundational truth of the gospel...
  - Which teaches we're saved by grace alone!

THE FOCUS HAD SHIFTED FROM THE RIGHTEOUS WORK OF CHRIST...

- Onto the righteous works they could produce...
  - In hopes that they would be accepted more.
    - This is a trap of Satan!

SO HE BEGINS BY PLACING THE EMPHASIS...

- Back upon Jesus Christ (*v. 1*)...
  - And His perfect work of salvation...
    - Which wasn't dependent on any man...
      - But the power of God through the resurrection.
      - (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

*"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."*

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT TODAY?

- I must remind us...
  - We cannot do anything to add to...
    - Or take away from the work of salvation!

*"If I'm seeking to relate to God on the basis of my own righteousness or my own works, or if I expect to be blessed because I have been on good behavior this week, or I have read so many chapters or prayed so much, then my relationship with God is always going to be tenuous."*

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*Sometimes I will feel that my relationship with God is good and at other times I will feel that it is bad. Why? Because I am trying to related to Him on the basis of my righteousness.”*

Pastor Chuck Smith – Why Grace Changes Everything

**THE POINT IS...**

- Our faith becomes fickle & diluted...
  - When we put a focus on our efforts...
    - Above the finished work of the cross.
- Jesus wants us to rest and be confident before Him...
  - Instead of wondering in our own work.

*(Read vv. 6-10)*

**~ IDEA #2 – “Don’t Get Twisted” (vv. 6-10)~**

*(v. 6)* IDENTIFIES THE REASON FOR THIS LETTER...

- *Turning away*:
  - “To fall away or desert from...
    - One person or thing to another”

*(vv. 8-9)* PAUL OFFERS A STRICT WARNING...

- To anyone that would twist the gospel.
- *Trouble*:
  - To render anxious or distress;
    - To perplex the mind of one by suggesting...
      - Scruples or doubts
  - A feeling of doubt or hesitation.

SOMETIMES THIS IS CAUSED...

- By someone else’s influence in our life...
  - Or by the attack of the enemy in our mind.
    - (To doubt our salvation)

EITHER WAY...

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- A simple point of application for us lands in (v. 10)...
- Men pleasers will twist the truth.

WHEN WE FEAR [REVERENCE] PEOPLE MORE THAN GOD...

- We yield to someone else's standard or expectation...
- Giving them leadership over our decisions.
  - (Proverbs 29:25 NLT)

FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION...

- Brings assurance to our actions...
- No matter who's around.

WHAT ABOUT OUR SUPERVISORS...

- Should we have a fear [reverence] towards them???
- Yes!

BUT IF WE'RE ALIGNED WITH GOD'S WILL...

- We can be confident as we honor Him...
- We will be honoring them too.
  - (Colossians 3:22) NKJV

*"Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God."*

BUT... WHEN WE SEEK TO PLEASE PEOPLE...

- We start to live a hypocritical life.
- Jesus warned His disciples about this...
  - (Luke 12:1-4) NKJV

AND ULTIMATELY... WE BECOME A POISONED SOURCE...

- That others cannot receive from.
- (1 Thessalonians 2:4-6 NLT)

*"For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. Never once did we try to win you*

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*with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.”*

**THE POINT IS...**

- Our faith becomes fickle when our desire to please men...
  - Gets in the way of our purpose before God.

**THIS CAN HAVE A SPECTRUM OF APPLICATIONS...**

- From our friends & family...
  - To our spouses and loved ones.

*(Read vv. 11-24)*

**~IDEA #3 – “Experience The Difference” (V)~**

**THE FALSE TEACHERS...**

- Pointed to circumcision as proof of salvation...
  - And Paul points to a changed life as proof of salvation.

**THIS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO...**

- Saying you must wear a cross on your neck...
  - To show that you’re a Christian.

**WHEREAS... THE ARGUMENT IS...**

- A changed life is proof...
  - Of living out God’s grace.

**HERE PAUL GIVES HIS TESTIMONY...**

- And it shows a clear picture of how God works in each of our lives.

**(vv. 11-14) #1 – The Old Conduct**

**HE CLEARLY LIVED A LIFE APART FROM GOD...**

- Attacking the people of God...
  - Winning a race of pride.

**(vv.15-16) #2 – Saving Grace**

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IT PLEASED GOD TO BRING HIM TRUE SALVATION...

- In the depth of his sinful condition...
  - Totally undeserving of God's grace.

(vv. 17-24) #3 – New Creation

HIS REPUTATION WAS CHANGED OVER TIME...

- From a life apart from God...
  - To one that brought glory to God.

HE WAS CONVERTED BY CHRIST...

- He was confirmed by Christ...
  - He was commissioned by Christ.

IT WAS ALL A WORK OF CHRIST...

- That no man could take credit for.
  - The same should be true for us.

YES... PEOPLE CAN PREACH TO US THE GOSPEL...

- And can teach us about Christianity...
  - But we must personally experience Christ for ourselves...
    - In order for it to be authentic.
      - *“Taste and see that the Lord is good...” (Psalm 34:8)*  
*NKJV*
        - Like a picture of food.

**THE POINT IS...**

- A fickle faith is defeated...
  - When we live an authentic life...
    - By the power of God's grace!

**~ IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM) ~**

TODAY EACH OF US...

- Have an opportunity to examine our lives...
  - And see if we're living out a fickle faith...
    - Or in full authenticity before the Lord.



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IF YOU'RE HERE TODAY...

- You recognize you've placed your efforts above the work of the cross...
  - Or you've succumbed to pleasing people above the Lord...
    - Or you desire a more authentic relationship with God.
      - He offers His grace to you!