

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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Great Galatian Questions

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Questions, of course, are a classic way to ascertain knowledge. At times, though, questions are posed to inspire and stimulate thought. Paul, at times, used this tactic masterfully. His epistle to the Galatians stands out as a great example. Have you considered these "Great Galatian Questions?" If not, why not?

1) ***"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men"*** (Gal. 1:10)? These questions are part of the context which includes Paul's marveling at the fact the Galatians were *"so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ"* (Gal. 1:6). Paul reminded them there was but one Gospel, or *"faith"* (Eph. 4:5), and his job as a teacher was to please God, and not man. Paul earlier noted to the Corinthians, *"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men"* (II Cor. 5:11). These are good verses and passages for teachers and preachers to bear in mind as they conduct their work. Those who are *"put in*

trust with the gospel" teach *"not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts"* (I Thess. 2:4).

2) ***"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you"*** (Gal. 3:1)? This question is rooted in the need for obedience to the truth. It is always right to question why one would refuse to obey God's Word. The Bible points this idea out in various ways. Such as *"obedient to the faith"* (Acts 6:7), *"obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine"* (Rom. 6:17), *"obeyed the gospel"* (Rom. 10:16), *"obedience of Christ"* (II Cor. 10:5), and *"obeying the truth"* (I Pet. 1:22). The Hebrew writer made it abundantly clear when writing, *"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all*

them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8-9). So, if you have not been obedient to the truth, who (or what) has bewitched you?

3) ***"Wherefore then serveth the law"*** (Gal. 3:19)? Paul referenced the Law of Moses quite often in this epistle. So much so he queries about the purpose of the Law of Moses. He answered his own question by saying, *"It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made."* The purpose of the Law of Moses, and any law, is to identify that which is wrong. Without it, there would be no right or wrong. To the Romans Paul stated, *"for where no law is, there is no transgression"* (Rom. 4:15). For a comparison, consider the chaos of the book of Judges when it says, *"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes"* (Jdg. 17:6; Jdg. 21:25). Man has always had a code by which to live and obey. Now it

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is the New Testament to which we owe our allegiance and obedience. That is why it is referred to as the “law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2) and the “law of liberty” (Jam. 1:25; Jam. 2:12). We should be thankful to God He has issued a law which helps us identify what is right and what is wrong.

4) “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth” (Gal. 4:16)? Good Bible students realize they bear certain duties to the truth. We should “*buy the truth*” (Prov. 23:23). We should be “*established*” in the truth (II Pet. 1:12). We should “*rightly divide the word of truth*” (II Tim. 2:15). We should “*speak the truth in love*” (Eph. 4:15). And we should be ready to “*speak forth the words of truth*” (Acts 26:25). When we do, there are going to be certain listeners who classify us as their enemy because of our truth-telling. If it was done in love, so be it! Stephen’s audience stoned him for telling the truth (Acts 7). Jeremiah was put into mire-filled dungeon because he spoke the truth (Jer. 38:6).

Let us neither categorize others as our enemy because they tell the truth, nor relent from telling the truth because others may not like it or you.

5) “Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth” (Gal. 5:7)? What a great question. Embedded within it are great thoughts. First, the past tense words “*ye did run well*” indicate there is certainly a possibility of a Christian sinning so as to lose his gift of salvation. Many denominations teach the doctrine of “once saved, always saved,” otherwise known as “eternal security” or “the impossibility of apostasy.” If this were Biblically true, Peter knew nothing of it, for he called upon Simon (a new Christian) to “*Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee*” (Acts 8:22). Paul knew nothing of it who put his very life in danger by returning to Lystra where he had been “*left for dead*” in order to confirm “*the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in*

the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:19-22).

This question also highlights the need to be very wary of what and who we allow to enter our lives. Something was hindering the faithfulness of the Galatians, hence the question. Is there something which is obstructing your faith today?

Jesus warned, “*Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth*” (Lk. 12:15). Do not let stuff keep you from God! Part of an individual’s responsibility is to “*keep himself unspotted from the world*” (Jam. 1:27). Paul cautioned, “*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners*” (I Cor. 15:33).

If you have strayed from the faithful way, identify what or who is hindering you, and remove it from your life. Your soul and eternal fate depend upon it!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm