

# **S.O.H.L.**

## **WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS**

*Pronounced "Soul"*

**November 10, 2014**

### **The Dangers of False Teaching**

**GALATIANS 1:6-9 NKJV** – (6) I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, (7) which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. (8) But 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. (9) 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.

In following the teaching of the Judaizers, the Galatians had turned from the truth of the gospel and, thus, from God Himself. To have circumcised Titus, or for any Gentile to have been circumcised, would have been to turn away from the gospel of God's grace (2:3-5; 5:1-4). Who were the Judaizers, then? Jewish Christians, likely Pharisees according to Acts 15 who, with good intentions, sought to supplement Paul's gospel by requiring that the basics of the Law be followed: circumcision and food laws. Perhaps the real issue at stake was the status of the Gentiles within the people of God. By Acts 15, there appeared to have been some Jewish Christians that did not like the implications of Gentile salvation that Paul was preaching. Individuals from this group went into churches established by Paul and taught that circumcision was required for converts to Christianity.

The traditional answer to the identity of the opponents of Paul is that they were Jewish Christians that desired to impose the law on Gentile converts – Judaizers. The term appears in the New Testament only in Galatians 2:14, meaning "to live as a Jew in accordance with Jewish customs (traditions)."

The Word of God is truth, that is living and able to penetrate human souls (Hebrews 4:12). Consider how powerful Scripture is: it can change hearts, save lives from eternal condemnation, and give hope to the hopeless. Is it any wonder, then, that the Bible is a battlefield of Satan? The Devil will do his best to destroy its message and truth. In fact, this has been our Enemy's continuous goal since he chose to turn from God. Our heavenly Father has graciously informed us in advance the outcome of this ongoing battle: truth will prevail. But, while the Lord has ultimate victory, Satan can gain ground among individuals. His tactics are dangerous and deceptive to the unsuspecting. For this reason, we should carefully guard against his attacks, which are hard to recognize unless we are prepared.

False teaching is one of Satan's preferred tactics for leading us astray. At first glance, such instruction often seems to align with Scripture, but do not be misled by its deception. Two things are essential for standing firm against these slippery falsehoods:

1. Be well-grounded in the truth of God's Word, and
2. Listen to His Spirit.

By following these two essential tenants, only then can we recognize the error and avoid the pitfalls of Satan's lies. The Enemy longs to mislead believers, thereby making them ineffective for the kingdom. He also wants to keep all unsaved souls far from salvation through Jesus Christ. Friends, prepare for battle. Grow in the knowledge of truth, and lean on God's Spirit to guide you - moment by moment.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** JOHN 3:10

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.