

Hindering the Truth

Gal. 5:7-26

Introduction:

- A. How often could the question of verse 7 be asked?
 - 1. Of churches?
 - 2. Of individuals?
- B. Galatians bothered by three timeless *hindrances* to obeying the truth?

Discussion:

II. The Undermining Hindrance Of Doctrinal Error. (vv. 7-12).

- A. False doctrine is like leaven - works undercover. (v. 9; Cf. 2:4-5; 2 Pet. 2:1)
- B. Few churches destroyed by error that begins in pulpit.
 - 1. It often starts as privately expressed views.
 - 2. It often starts in the pew - later installed in pulpits. (2 Tim. 4:4).
 - 3. Cf. Institutionalism, marriage question, premillennialism.

III. The Discouraging Hindrance Of Needless Controversy. (vv. 13-15).

- A. Necessary to contend for the faith. (2:5, 11-14; Jude 3).
- B. Unnecessary to turn every question into an “issue”.
 - 1. Such a thing as being obsessed with disputes. (1 Tim. 6:4).
 - 2. Such a thing as useless wrangling (constant friction). (1 Tim. 6:5).
 - 3. Such a thing as foolish disputes or unlearned questions. (2 Tim. 2:23; Tit. 3:9).
 - a. Disputes over what law gentiles were under.
 - b. “John the Baptist could talk when 8 days old.”.
 - 4. Such a thing as not allowing for individual growth and discernment. (Rom. 14).
 - 5. Such a thing as childish strife. (1 Cor. 3:1-4).
- C. Necessary to make distinctions in differences.

IV. The Destructive Hindrance of Carnal Mindedness. (v. 16-26).

- A. Fleshly sensuality. (“Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness”).
- B. Fleshly cults: (“idolatry, sorcery [witchcraft]”).
- C. Fleshly dispositions. (“hatred” through “envy”).
- D. Fleshly pleasures. (“drunkenness” and “revelry”).
- E. Fleshly attachments - respectable worldliness - here and now. (cf. Matt. 13:22).

Conclusion:

- A. Who or what hinders you from obeying the truth?
- B. How well are you running?