



Daily Reflections

October 3, 2016

Scripture

Galatians 1: 6-12

Brothers and sisters:

I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel (not that there is another).

But there are some who are disturbing you and wish to pervert the Gospel of Christ.

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed!

As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed!

Am I now currying favor with human beings or God?

Or am I seeking to please people?
If I were still trying to please people,
I would not be a slave of Christ.
Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,
that the Gospel preached by me is not of human origin.
For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it,
but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Our Scripture Reflection

Paul writes his letter to a Church he had helped found in Asia Minor. The community was comprised of former Jews, many of whom Paul had recently converted to Jesus Christ. However, after leaving Galatia, Paul learns that some hard-lined Jewish conservative missionaries have come behind him and were taking the newly converted Christians to task for listening to the "renegade" Paul and for having abandoned their traditional practices such as observance of the Law, eating kosher food, and circumcision. That some are weak and questioning Paul's new teaching is causing them to revert back to their old Jewish faith. Paul is furious upon hearing this and challenges them in his letter. For Paul, to take on Jesus Christ means to break definitively with one's past.

Food for your Journey

A mission team of students experienced the life-changing power of the gospel firsthand while working in a village in Ghana. They were trying to hold a Sunday morning service, but it was too light to show the Jesus film, and no one on the team spoke the local dialect. As the villagers gathered, the students searched for a translator and found a young man who spoke English. He agreed to translate, and as a member of the student team shared the message of freedom in Christ, a large crowd began to form.

What the team didn't know was that their translator was a local gangster! The villagers were coming to find out why this hoodlum was talking about God. When the student speaker ended the message with an invitation, the translator added a challenge of his own. "I want all of you to know that I have decided to ask Jesus Christ into my life," he announced. "I am going to come forward, and I recommend that you do the same."

Seeing God's power to change even a notorious gangster prompted many people to accept Christ that morning. The unlikely evangelist served as translator for the rest of the team's trip and became a member of a nearby church. — wycliffe.org.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, When I received You into my life, I gave up my old ways. Help me as I walk the walk of faith to surrender to You completely and to live Your way faithfully. Amen.