

The Perils of Pleasing People

Galatians 1:1-5

August 19, 2018 – Pastor Nick Neves

The key issue of this letter is not _____, the key issue is the _____
But since Paul is the one defending the true gospel, the first two chapters of Galatians will spend some time explaining why Paul should be trusted.

Two accusations had been raised against Paul. His enemies claimed:

- a. That he was a _____ pleaser.
- b. That he was _____ in his adherence to the law of Moses

In Acts 16:1-3, Paul invites Timothy to join him and Silas on a mission journey. What physical sign did Paul require Timothy to agree to if he was going to journey on with them? Why was this a strange move?

Why does Paul *seem* to act inconsistently by not requiring Titus to do the same? (see 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

Making a great effort to please people is perilous for many reasons:

- 1. What pleases people isn't always _____.
- 2. People's values and desires are ever _____
- 3. Pleasing people will divide our _____ – we cannot serve God the right way if we are also trying to please people.

Paul is not compelled to please God so that he can win God's favor or earn his salvation. The primary thing that motivates all of Paul's actions is a _____ for God that supersedes every other love he has.

(see 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

What are some things we might look for to determine if we are too concerned with pleasing people?

Paul knew the perils of pleasing people first hand – verse 10 shows that, as a _____, Paul had made the mistake of trying to win the affections of his fellow man. (see also Philippians 3:4-7)

Paul has, through God's grace, put that futile pursuit behind him. By God's grace, we can do the same! What are some things that will help us to overcome the compulsion to please people?
