



Sermon for Woodside SDA Church June 12, 2021 by Pr. Vincent Saunders Jr.



Today we begin a study through the epistle to the Galatians in the New Testament. I seek your prayers for Dick West who is recovering from hip surgery in Kaiser Southside. Let's pray.



Intro: Did you see this amazing story? The Atheists in Kenya Society released a press statement at the end of May informing it's members that a prominent leader in their ranks has resigned from the Society. What was the reason? Seth Mahiga has found Jesus Christ and is no longer interested in promoting atheism in Kenya. They thanked him for his service & wished Seth all the best in his new found relationship with Jesus.



Luke writes about the conversion of another opponent to the gospel in Acts 8:1-2 & 9:20-22 Key verse: 21

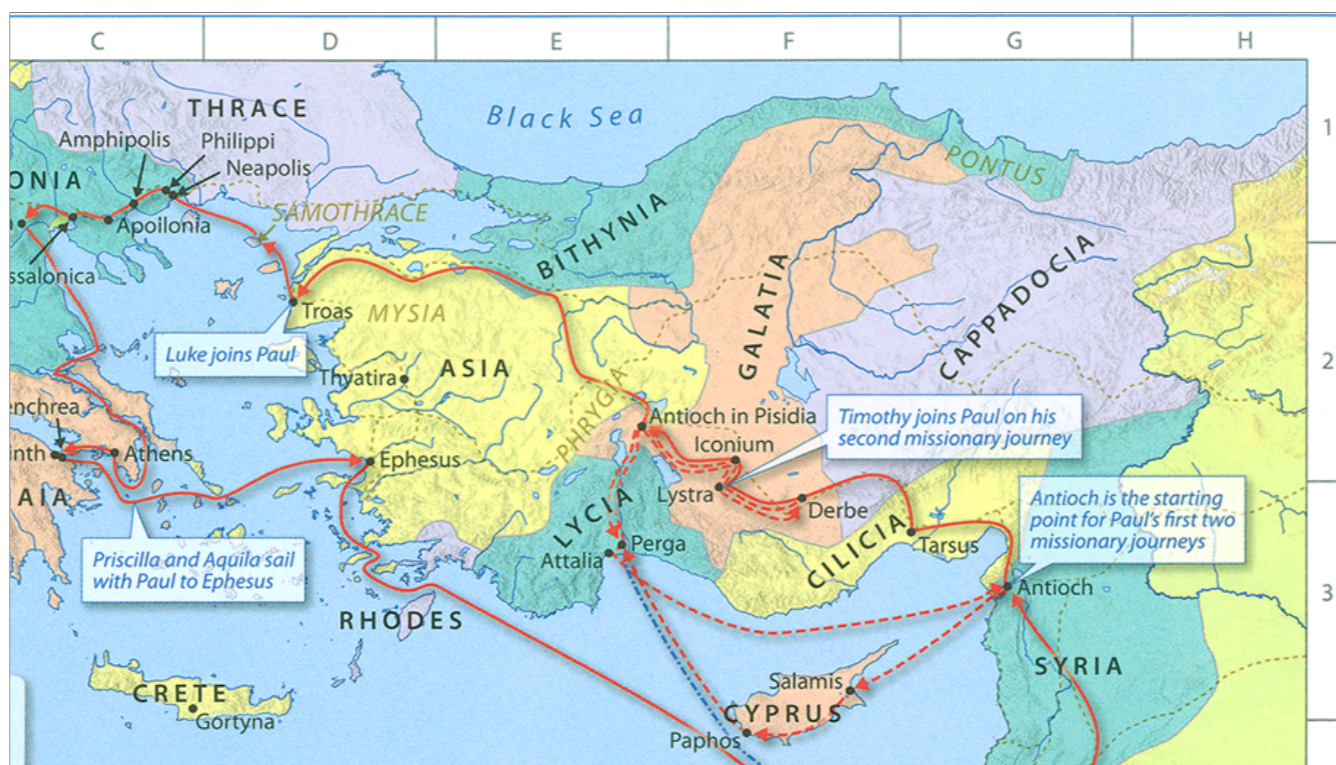
Saul's Conversion

➤ “All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?”” (Acts 9:21 NAS95)



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Acts 13:1-3 is the testimony of Saul's commission and we have his first recorded sermon in a synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia. Unlike other epistles like Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Phillipians, Paul intended for this epistle to go around the region of Galatia to the churches he had planted on his missionary journeys.

The Sabbath at Antioch in Pisidia

- “After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, “Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it.”” (Acts 13:15 NAS95)





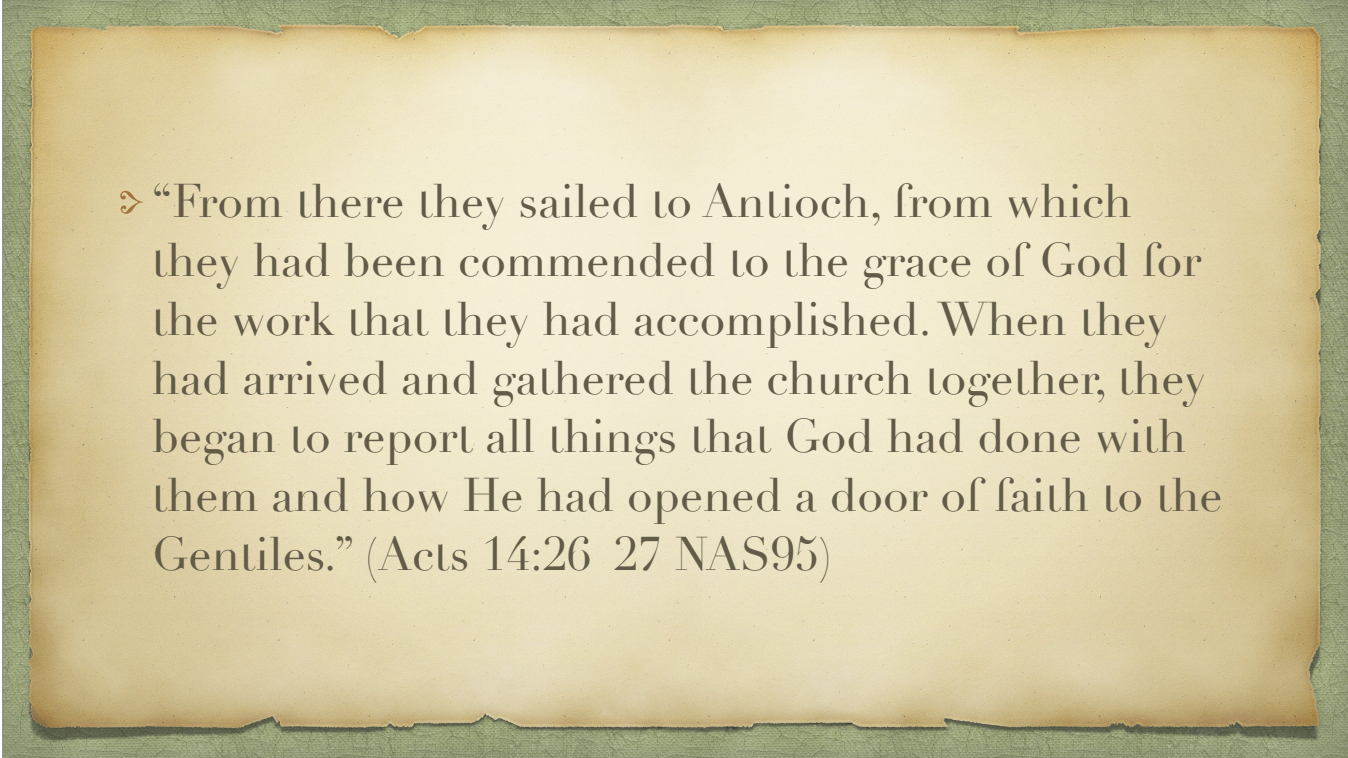
““Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. “Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you: ‘BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH; FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.’”” (Acts 13:38–41 NAS95) quoting Hab. 1:5 the first prophet to proclaim “The just shall live by faith!”

Two Responses

- Gentiles and some Jews: Hallelujah!
- Jews & leading politicians: Get Out!



“Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. “For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’”” (Acts 13:46–47 NAS95)



➤ “From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.” (Acts 14:26-27 NAS95)

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Church at
Galatia

Mix of Jews & Gentiles



Picture of ruins on Antioch in Pisidia

Paul's Letter to the Region

- Written approximately AD 48
- Written against Judaizers by a former Judaizer
- Core Message: Inclusion, not exclusion, similar to Romans & Hebrews
- Context: Conflict regarding Assimilation of converts harms the Gospel Power

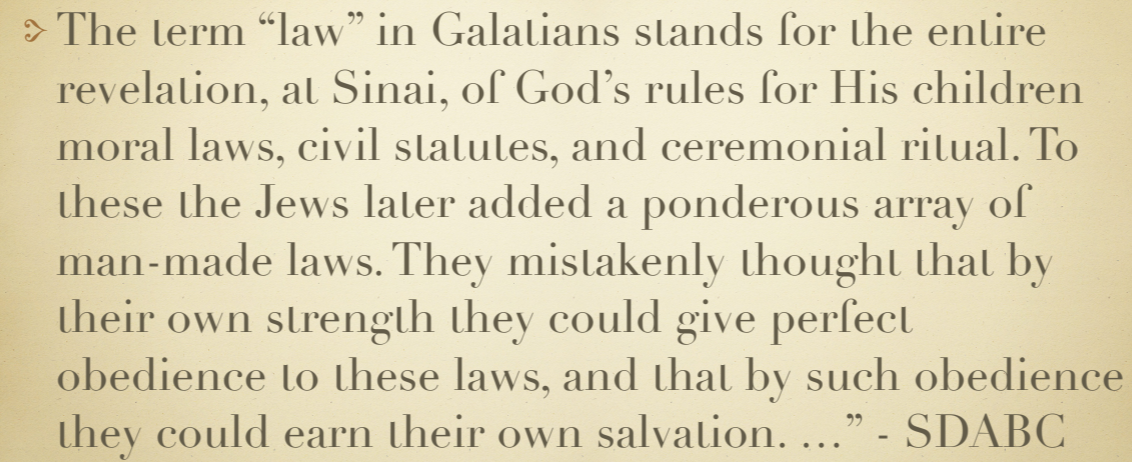
‣ “To substitute external forms of religion for holiness of heart and life is still as pleasing to the unrenewed nature as it was in the days of these Jewish teachers. Today, as then, there are false spiritual guides, to whose doctrines many listen eagerly. It is Satan's studied effort to divert minds from the hope of salvation through faith in Christ and obedience to the law of God. In every age the archenemy adapts his temptations to the prejudices or inclinations of those whom he is seeking to deceive.” - “Apostasy at Galatia” Acts of the Apostles pg. 387

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Outline of Galatians

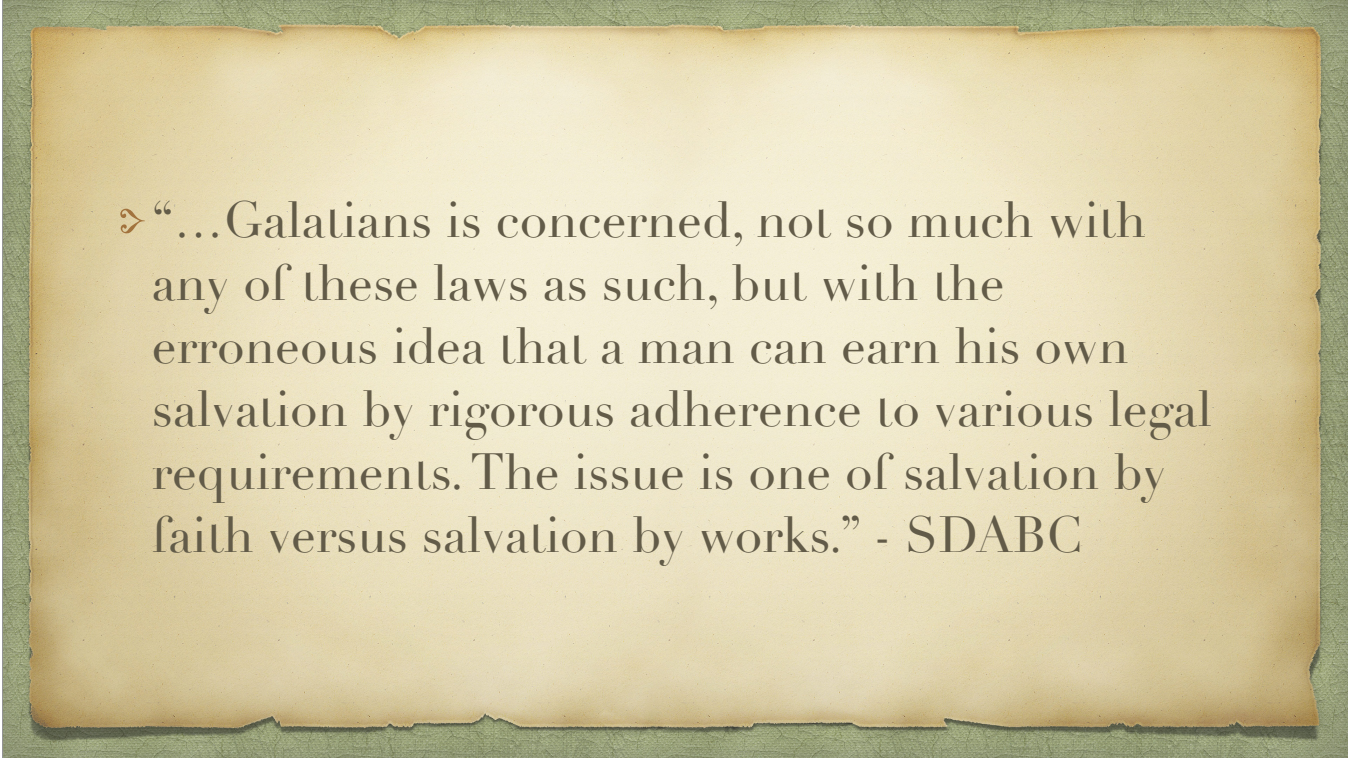
- Greetings & Introduction 1:1-14
- Relationship to Jerusalem: 1:5-2:15
- Gospel Summary: 2:16-21
- Abraham & Moses: 3:1-4:31
- Circumcision & Christ: 5:1-12
- Flesh & the Spirit 5:13-26
- Final Encouragements: 6:1-18





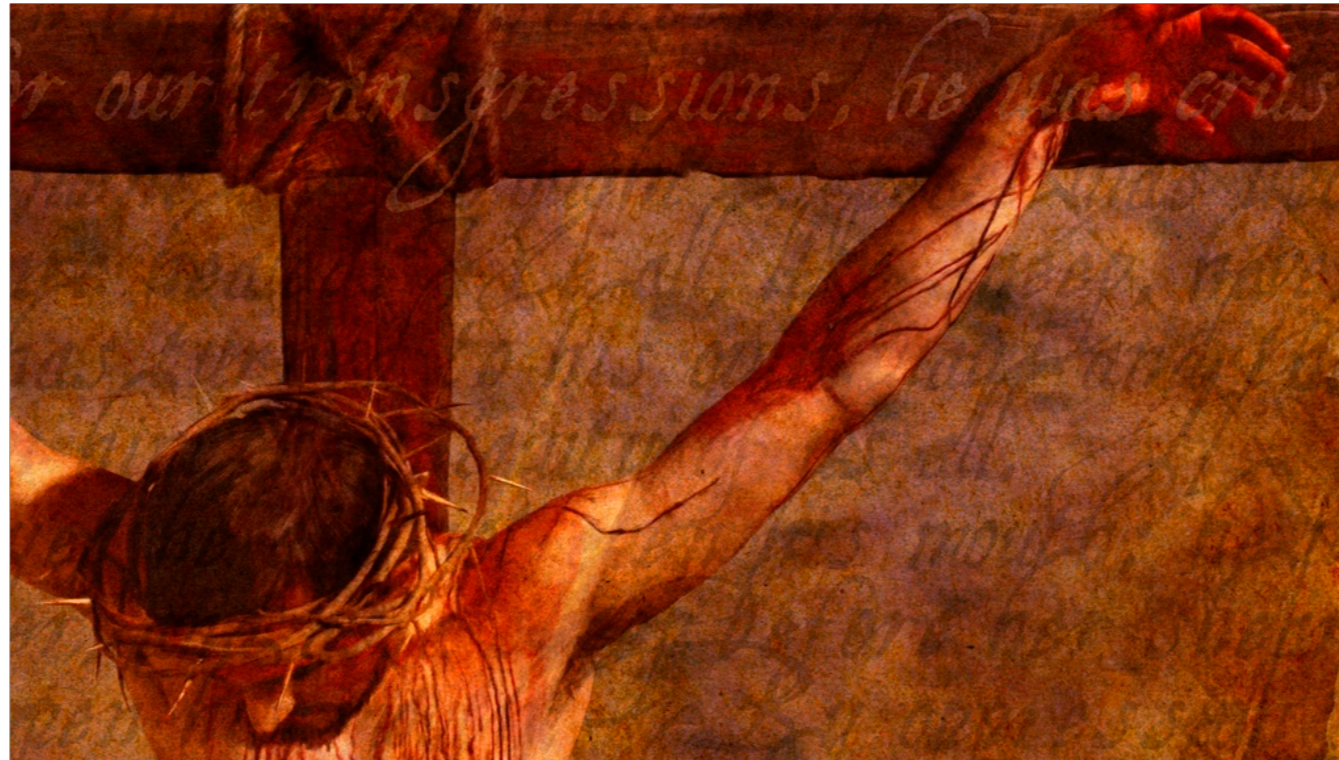
➤ The term “law” in Galatians stands for the entire revelation, at Sinai, of God’s rules for His children—moral laws, civil statutes, and ceremonial ritual. To these the Jews later added a ponderous array of man-made laws. They mistakenly thought that by their own strength they could give perfect obedience to these laws, and that by such obedience they could earn their own salvation. ...” - SDABC

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“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.” (Galatians 1:6–7 NAS95)

Gospel - transliterated from the Greek - “Evangelism”

Saul to Paul

Persecutor to Preacher



Paul gives evidence of his conversion and ministry experience to found the message on a thorough conversion experience (Galatians 1:11-2:2) His experience with Titus who he chose not to circumcise based on the decision in Jerusalem (Acts 15) However, he did circumcise Timothy who had a Jewish mother and greek father, Timothy became a key leader in the church based at Ephesus.

Virtue Signal to Peter's Bias

Galatians 2:11-14

Peter — > Jews

Paul — > Gentiles

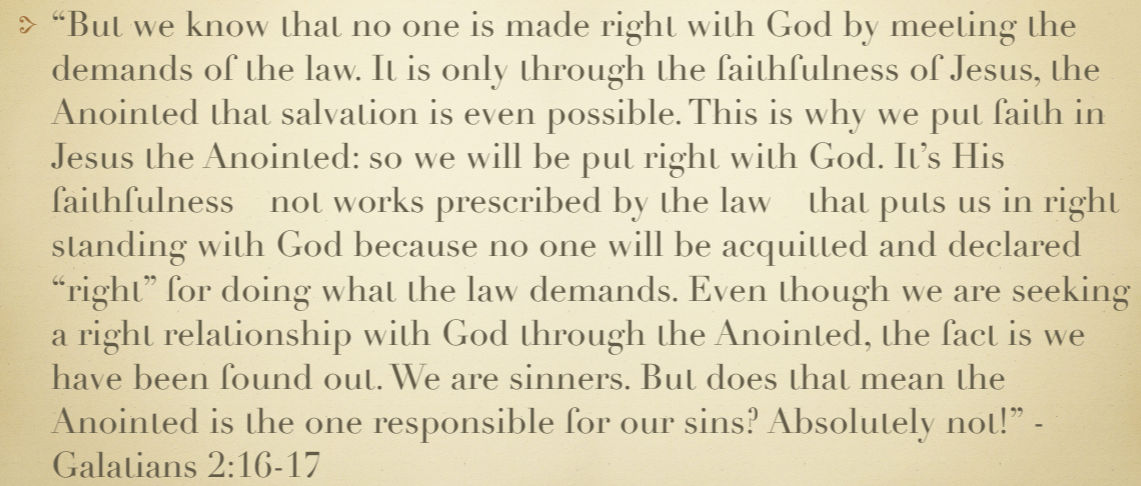


“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?” (Galatians 2:11–14 NAS95)

- “ Jesus brings the good news of the expected last time (Mt. 11:5).
- The message carries with it the fulfillment.
- The works of Jesus are signs of the messianic age. At Nazareth Jesus applies Is. 61:1 to himself (Lk. 4:18). With him the good news of God’s kingdom is preached (Lk. 16:16).
- Lk. 8:1 sums up the entire ministry of Jesus when it calls him a herald and messenger of the kingdom. His whole life proclaims the gospel. His birth is good news (Lk. 2:10).
- His coming, work, and death are the great proclamation of peace (Eph. 2:14ff.).”

- Theological Dictionary of the New Testament on *Evangelism*

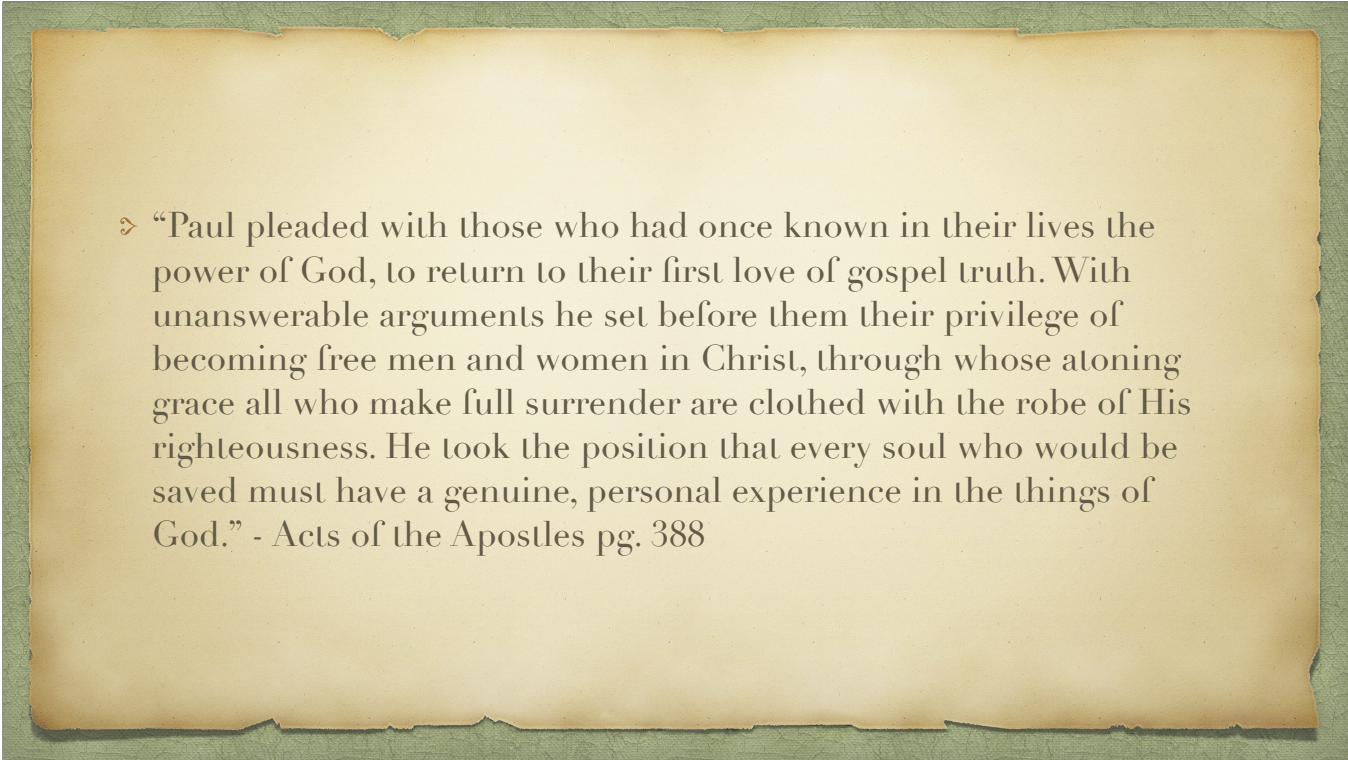
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➤ “But we know that no one is made right with God by meeting the demands of the law. It is only through the faithfulness of Jesus, the Anointed that salvation is even possible. This is why we put faith in Jesus the Anointed: so we will be put right with God. It’s His faithfulness—not works prescribed by the law—that puts us in right standing with God because no one will be acquitted and declared “right” for doing what the law demands. Even though we are seeking a right relationship with God through the Anointed, the fact is we have been found out. We are sinners. But does that mean the Anointed is the one responsible for our sins? Absolutely not!” - Galatians 2:16-17

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Metaphor	FAMILY	Through Jesus, believers become children of God and can call him, "Abba, Father" (Gal. 4:6).
Positive	ADOPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christians become part of God's family (Rom. 8:15; Eph. 1:5).• Have the full rights of a son (Gal. 4:5).• Receive the assurance that God will resurrect believers' bodies.
Negative	ORPHAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The orphan, along with the widow and the poor, are the most vulnerable and needy in society (Deut. 10:18; James 1:26–27).• Life apart from God is like that of an orphan: full of uncertainty, danger, and lack of love (Hos. 14:1–3).



‣ “Paul pleaded with those who had once known in their lives the power of God, to return to their first love of gospel truth. With unanswerable arguments he set before them their privilege of becoming free men and women in Christ, through whose atoning grace all who make full surrender are clothed with the robe of His righteousness. He took the position that every soul who would be saved must have a genuine, personal experience in the things of God.” - Acts of the Apostles pg. 388

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One of my favorite gospel passages occurs at the end of chapter 2 of Galatians - Here from the Voice Paraphrase: “19 The law has provided the means to end my dependence on it for righteousness, and so I died to the law. Now I have found the freedom to truly live for God. 20 I have been crucified with the Anointed One—I am no longer alive—but the Anointed is living in me; and whatever life I have left in this failing body I live by the faithfulness of God’s Son, the One who loves me and gave His body on the cross for me. 21 I can’t dismiss God’s grace, and I won’t. If being right with God depends on how we measure up to the law, then the Anointed’s sacrifice on the cross was the most tragic waste in all of history!” - Galatians 2:19-21



Appeal Story: Oswald in His Presence

June 12

Few readers of *My Utmost for His Highest* realize its author was a gifted painter who might have enjoyed a long and distinguished career. But a sermon by Charles Spurgeon changed that, and Oswald Chambers lay down his brushes, sensing God's call to ministry. From 1906 to 1910, he preached around the world, and from 1911 until 1915, he directed a Bible college.

At the outbreak of World War I, Chambers offered to minister among soldiers in Egypt. Under his leadership there, mission huts sprang up for British troops near Cairo and at the Suez. Men turned out in droves to hear his sermons and lectures.

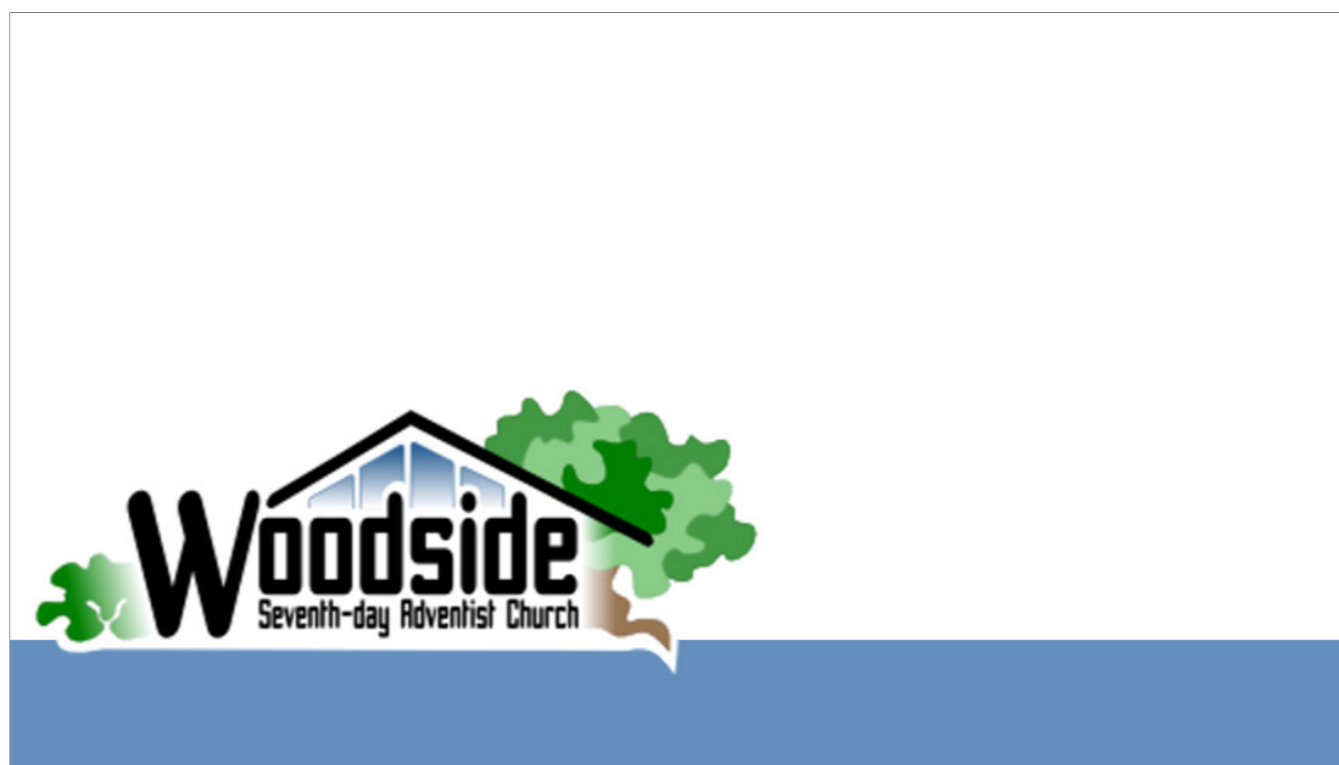
During these days, Chambers typically rose at 5:30 a.m. for his hour alone with God. Watching the sunrise over the ancient desert always filled him with wonder, and he sometimes described it in his journal, using an artist's tongue: "It is a lovely morning, the sun rose in a real marvel of glorious light. Each sunrise here looks as if it were a new thought from God. ..."

Chambers spent his last mornings in the minor prophets. He noted that the blasts and plagues described in Amos seemed to come from "the powerful hand of God, and not the blind cause and effect." He sensed God's overruling providence, even in disasters, even in the midst of war.

One day Chambers described in his diary the brilliant sunrise "like a celestial scheme of shot silk." He meditated on the power of a God who could make even the desert spectacular, then he read Amos 5, claiming verse 8: "He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning; ... the Lord is His name." Having thus reassured himself of the sovereignty and supremacy of God, Chambers plunged into another day.

He had only a handful left. A couple of weeks later he underwent an emergency appendectomy in the Red Cross hospital. Two weeks later, his wife cabled four words to his family and friends: "Oswald in His Presence."

Morgan, R. J. (2000, c1998). From this verse : 365 scriptures that changed the world (electronic ed.) (June 12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.



Appeal Prayer - "LORD, unveil the gospel to be plainly understood by all and may your magnetic love and the truth found in the scriptures provide a renewed relationship to you as our ABBA Father!"

Next Week: Grace & The Law - Paul's courtroom explanation as he makes the case for "righteousness by faith". God Bless you Friends.