

Date: 27 November 2022

Speaker: Pastor Clement Chew

Topic: Studies in Galatians - Please Man or God?

Text: Galatians 1:10

1. As social creatures, we have the tendency to please men to gain the affection and favour of others. But the Bible teaches us not to be man-pleasers but God-pleasers. In the Galatian church, the Judaisers tried to attack Paul by accusing him to be a man-pleaser. They claimed that Paul's teaching of salvation by faith only is too easy a way of salvation, and that Paul said that in order to please men.
2. Paul defended himself by saying that his words are not contrary to God's Word. He often preached doctrines pertaining to faith and godliness. He never taught easy-believism. The Judaisers, on the other hand, were teaching the people to trust in their own good works for salvation. They were the ones who taught things contrary to God's Word, which Paul later pointed out their errors.
3. Paul never preached to gain the approval of men. He was direct to the point and his words cut straight to address the sin of the church. His motto in life was to gain the approval of God. This should also be the same attitude that believers ought to have in terms of our studies, careers and areas of service. Don't make choices based on earning higher educational degree or gaining career progression or being popular with the congregation. If you do not set this as your conviction, you will please men and forgo God's commands.
4. In order to make this point clear and grave, Paul concluded that a person who pleases men should not be a servant of Christ. This is a serious abomination in God's sight. It is absolutely impossible for a Christian to serve two masters, for he will hate one and love the other.

*Whose words do you follow? Whose approval do you seek? Whose servant are you?*