



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 160 - All for Nothing? (Galatians)

Judaizers

Jewish believers often had trouble letting go of those parts of the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled and made obsolete. To them it made perfect sense that a Gentile would first need to become a convert to Judaism, before he became a follower of Jesus Christ.

- Why would a group of Christians be attracted to the law-oriented rules and regulations of the Judaizers?
- What was the danger of becoming entangled in the old Jewish laws?
- Where do you see Satan trying to use laws and traditions to ensnare Christians today?

Clearly, this slipping back from Gospel into Law occurred very early in Paul's ministry, probably before the Jerusalem council clarified the requirements for Gentile believers.

- Why did Paul consider it necessary to defend his apostleship to the Christians of Galatia?

Even Peter, the leader of the apostles, got swept up by the circumcision party.

- Why did Paul feel it necessary to relate his confrontation with Peter in this letter?

The Gospel Alone

When Paul considers the way many Galatians took Satan's bait—hook, line and sinker—he is first amazed, then angry. He condemns the circumcision party or Judaizers, confronts Peter when he is being led astray by them, and reminds the Galatians of the blessings of God, which they are setting aside.

- Why is it essential to remember that Jesus fulfilled the Law for us, satisfying God's perfect justice, so we do not have to?
- Why do you think Paul got so angry and used such sharp language in comparing circumcision to mutilation and wishing the Judaizers would emasculate themselves?