

Hello! This is Dorothy -

The **Book of Galatians** is a very interesting book. Actually it is in seven parts. It starts off at the beginning with the *salutation*, which goes up to **chapter 1 and verse 5**. Then you get the *theme* of what it is about. Then Paul's Gospel is a *revelation*. That is followed by *justification by faith* without the law. Then we read of *the rule of the believer's life*, which is a gracious, wonderful life; it is not a legal life. Then how we are *sanctified through the Spirit*, not by the law. And finally, there are the *exhortations and conclusions*. Although I cannot go through the whole Book, I do want to emphasize the part I believe the Spirit of the Lord is showing us, as ladies, we need to understand.

I am reminded of a verse in **Philippans chapter 3**, which warns against Judaizers, those who would try to add something of the law or the tradition or something which is not the pure Gospel. Again, this is very strong language, but we need to hear it from the Spirit of the Lord to bring conviction to our lives. It says –

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

2 Beware . . . -ok - *beware of what? You remember when you were a girl, your mother would say, "Watch out for this and do that and beware*

*of something.” Well, this is strong language - **Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.***

3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

In other words, we can have all the training – and I am not against training — but none of that is going to make me a vessel for the living God. God puts us through many tests and much training, but behind it all is that we. . . ***have no confidence in the flesh.*** Our confidence is in Christ Jesus. It is interesting that it says . . . ***beware of concision.*** *Concision* is a word which meant, in those days, that the pagans would cut their bodies while practicing idolatrous worship. It is rather like happenings today: the piercing, the opening up, the entering of the body unto something which is coming from the enemy. It speaks of a play, really, on that word, *circumcision*. That is what the concision was all about, because the Judaizers were actually mutilating the Gospel message by mixing in the works of the law with grace. The Judaizers were confusing the Galatian churches and undermining their confidence in Christ. They mentally disturbed them by their fear and confusion.

Do you believe that the power of the Gospel is adequate for any situation in which you find yourself or in any situation in which the Church is placed today? If you believe this, then what has happened? Oh, we know in lands where there is much persecution and difficulty

where people love not their lives unto death, that there is a great ingathering of people coming to Christ. For those of us who have added — added to the Church, added to what is pure grace — we have, as it were, shrunk to our little holy group that feels we will stand when all is against us. But somehow we are not having the impact upon the youth that say, “There must be a solution in life; there has to be an answer. There is this blank in our life and nothing is filling us!” The overpowering of the Gospel alone can meet every person on every level of every race of every type of a background. So what is missing? Is it that we have allowed this to creep in to our lives, into our little structure? Do we do things in a set way, because we believe that we are here to have a social time at the same time? After all, we all need each other socially! Do we put those social gatherings before the impact of the power of the Gospel? Do we elect what kind of a job we would like in the situation where God has placed us, because that suits our disposition? Do we avoid people who have the authority and the power of the Lord upon them, because somehow we do not quite like that which ticks within them? We feel a confrontation with the Lord Himself through their lives! Do we tamper with the Biblical revelation of the Gospel and, therefore, do we have written over us, *Anathema?*

You know, Paul says in this **chapter 1 of Galatians** -

12 For indeed I did not receive it from man - *the Gospel from any*

person - . . . **but [it came to me] . . . [direct] . . . from Jesus Christ.**

. . Then he speaks about his background and how he had a fanatical zeal to kill the Christians. He goes on to say how he outdid what anybody else did with his extreme enthusiasm. He was zealous to follow the traditions of his ancestors. Then, he says,

15 But when He, Who had chosen . . .me . . . Could you imagine? This one who had hounded and killed the Christians and tried to stamp out the Church, but he said, **He . . . had chosen me and set me apart [even] before I was born and had called me by His grace (His undeserved favor and blessing) . . .** He is calling you. He has known you before the foundation of the world. As He calls you, He says, ‘Turn totally to Me for My glory.’

In Jesus’ Name. Amen.