

Pastors & Churches

Galatians Series – Part 9

Scripture text – Galatians 4:8-20

Introduction

- Up to this point, it had been Paul the _____; in this passage, it is Paul the _____.
- He's now speaking from his _____ to a people he loves very deeply.
- Explanatory note: Many scholars believe Paul stopped in Galatia because he had contracted _____, a nasty & debilitating illness in those days.

Section 1: The Pastor's Attitude

- Paul spoke to this by comparing his attitude toward the churches in Galatia to that of the _____.
- Paul's motivation was that Christ be _____ in them. In contrast, the Judaizers were engaged in the phenomenon known today as personal _____.
- Today, this is a problem in both small & large churches.
 1. Some pastors use the small church as a _____ to something bigger & better.
 2. Some pastors use the large church to build their personal brand to the point where the church serves _____.
- Advice from a mentor: "*Whenever the church gathers, the pastor is the _____ important person in the room.*"

Section 2: The Church's Attitude

- Paul spoke to this by reflecting on how the church's attitude toward him had _____ . They went from welcoming to _____ .
- Somewhere along the line, they no longer liked his _____ .
- Two problems:
 1. Churches who pressure their pastor to only tell them what they _____ to hear.
 - It's often not what pastors say, but what they _____ say (i.e., the topics they avoid).
 - The average Christian has very little understanding of what they _____ to hear.

- This calls for _____ & _____.
2. Churches who have stopped _____ to their pastor altogether.
- This is sad because many of our struggles would be resolved (or largely so) by having a firm grasp of Christian _____.
 - In the case of Israel, God sent prophet-after-prophet, but the people wouldn't _____.

Conclusion

- A yet unfulfilled prophecy is that of a great _____ from the faith.
- Those who do so will be those who stopped _____ to God's Word.