

HINDERING GOD'S WORK

Gal 5:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We sometimes ask the question, what's holding us back in the Lord's Work? Matt 12:30 (either for or against)
- B. We learn from the Galatians that we can be hindered in our running the race for the Lord.
- C. Today we want to talk about some things that can and will hinder us in the work God has given us to do.

DISCUSSION:

I. IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WORD

- A. It caused the murder of Jesus Acts 2:22,23; 3:17
 - 1. They did not understand the nature of Christ's kingdom.
 - 2. They even desired a murderer in his place
- B. It brings about disobedience Rom 10:13-17
 - 1. We can't obey what we don't know
 - 2. We can't believe without hearing.
- C. It caused idol worship Acts 17:22,23
 - 1. These people were very religious
 - 2. Yet they worshiped in ignorance
- D. It caused the destruction of God's people Hos 4:6
- E. It brings about alienation from God Eph 4:17-19

II. NOT BELIEVING GOD'S WORD

- A. Israelites Heb 3:18-19
 - 1. Could not enter because of unbelief
 - 2. Only two entered out of the hundreds of thousands that left Egypt .
- B. Moses not allowed to lead into Canaan Num 20:12
- C. Warning about unbelief Heb 3:12
- D. Exhortation to keep from falling into unbelief Heb 4:11

III. COMPROMISE (make concessions) GOD'S WORD

- A. Paul didn't compromise Acts 20:27
 - 1. Declared the whole counsel of God
 - 2. Was willing to suffer for Christ 2Cor 11:23-33
- B. Peter didn't compromise Acts 2:22,23
 - 1. Was talking to the murderers of Jesus
 - 2. He told them in no uncertain terms that they were guilty of crucifying the Son of God

- C. Stephen Didn't compromise Acts 7:51
- D. If we pervert or change the Gospel we are accursed Gal 1:6-8

IV. UNFRIENDLINESS

- A. Be friendly to have friends Prov 18:24
- B. Greet everyone Heb 13:24
- C. Greet one another by name 3Jhn 1:14
- D. Unfriendliness has hurt the growth of probably as many congregations as any other one thing.

V. POOR EXAMPLE

- A. In our speech Jas 3:10-12
 - 1. Should not take the Lord's name in vain Ex 20:7; Rev 15:4
 - 2. Always tell the truth Acts 5:1-10
- B. In our conversation (manner of life) Phil 1:27
 - 1. We are the light of the world, the salt of the earth Matt 5:13,14
 - 2. None preach better than the Ant, and she says nothing at all - Franklin
 - 3. Example is more effective than precept - Samuel Johnson
- C. Christ is our example 1Pet 2:21; Jhn 13:15

CONCLUSION:

- A. Since Christ is our example, we look into his life and see He knew will of God and his faith was demonstrated by His obedience to the will of His Father. Christ never compromised the truth although he was tried on every hand. Christ displayed His friendliness; all during His personal ministry. Christ never made an enemy because He was unfriendly, if He had an enemy, which He did, it was because He did not compromise the truth.
- B. If we intend to help the cause of Christ then we must follow His example in each of these areas.
- C. If we don't measure up in one of these areas we will lose our own soul and cause someone else to lose theirs also.
- D. ARE YOU HELPING OR HINDERING See Matt 12:30