

BOOK OF GALATIANS
RUNNING WELL-PT 1
BEING ON THE RIGHT ROAD
GALATIANS 5:7-8; MATTHEW 7:13-14

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Introduction

We have been seeing in Paul's epistle here how that **it centers around Paul instructing the Galatians not to turn back toward the LAW!** He has been **pleading with them NOT to embrace the error of placing themselves under the yoke of bondage to the law that Christ had freed them from!**

There was a group of traditional Jews who were teaching and preaching error when it came to the Gospel (a/k/a Judaizers). **They had been influencing this Church that it was necessary to add keeping the LAW to their faith in Christ for their justification.**

Paul points out the error of this and in various ways he has been trying to get this Church to understand just **how wrong and how dangerous this doctrine is!** **Here is the DANGER: If you add something to the Gospel, you don't have the Gospel anymore! You have a perversion of the Gospel!**

Galatians 1:6-7 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ."

Galatians 3:1 "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"

Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

In our text this morning, Paul is commending the Galatians for having run a good race in the past. When Paul preached the Gospel to them, they had started off good, but now they were being hindered from running the race (or obeying the truth!)

Something had happened to "*knock them off track*" because now they were not running well! (e.g. NASCAR, Olympics) In Scripture we often find that life is compared to running a race! We each have a race to run!

Hebrews 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

Philippians 3:13-14 "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

God has a plan for our life! (i.e. A race, so to speak!) **He wants us to run the race that He has given us and run it well with diligence!**

Like the Galatians, **we as Believers in Christ must be diligent in running the course given to each of us by God!**

If something knocks us off track, we will NOT RUN WELL! NOR will we bring honor to the one we are running the race for!

We must all run with the goal in mind and run such as to finish our course well just as the Apostle Paul did.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 "6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

God didn't save just so we could go to heaven. Nor did He save us just to keep us from going to Hell. He saved us so we might bring Him glory in our lives!

Our desire should to "RUN WELL," but our goal should be to FINISH WELL! To do both of those two things, there are some things we need to know. In this message and at least one (possibly more) other messages I want us to EXPOUND on this subject of **RUNNING WELL!**

Here is **THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT POINT:**

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TO RUN WELL WE MUST RUN ON THE RIGHT ROAD!

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**Here is an important truth: THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO ROADS!
(No more and no less!)**

**Here is another important truth: NO ONE CAN RUN ON THESE TWO
ROADS AT THE SAME TIME! This morning you are on ONE road or
THE OTHER!**

**Every one of us were born into this world traveling on the ROAD THAT
LEADS TO DESTRUCTION!**

**Now understand that we may NOT have all been on the same lane, but we
were all headed on the same road that would lead us to Hell! (Think of
THE ROAD TO HELL AND DESTRUCTION as a MULTI-LANE
EXPRESSWAY ALL HEADED ONE-WAY...AND THAT ONE WAY IS
TO HELL & DESTRUCTION!)**

**Think of THE RIGHT ROAD...THE ROAD TO LIFE (SPEAKING OF
ETERNAL LIFE) as a ONE-LANE ROAD HEADED IN THE
TOTALLY OPPOSITE DIRECTION!**

**ONE MUST CHOOSE THE ROAD TO LIFE ON PURPOSE!
(i.e. A person must be born again to get on the right road.)**

Understand there are **MANY** lanes on the broad way leading to destruction!
But there is **ONLY ONE NARROW ROAD** that will take you to heaven!

What do I mean by **MANY LANES**? **Pay close attention...**

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**I. SOME FOLKS ARE RUNNING IN THE LANE OF GOOD
INTENTIONS!**

These folks may mean well...they may intend to do certain things for God one day, but they never get around to it.

“The road to Hell is paved with good intentions.”

I have talked with too many to tell that have been on this road!
Most of them wind up never getting saved!

Thankfully, many have seen the error of their ways and changed roads!

II. SOME FOLKS ARE RUNNING IN THE LANE OF RELIGION!

Most people who are religious to any degree **practice their religion
expecting that their religion or maybe even just their Church
affiliation will take them to Heaven! But it won't!**

Some are more religious than others! (Am I right?)

But listen, IT DOES NOT MATTER!

It is one of the wrong lanes that leads to destruction!

The Pharisees were some of the most religious people of their day! But listen to what Jesus had to said to them:

Matthew 23:27-28 “27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. 28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, *Matthew 5:20 “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*

THE LANE OF “GOOD INTENTIONS”... “RELIGION”

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III. SOME FOLKS ARE RUNNING IN THE LANE OF DENIAL!

A. Some Deny That They Are Sinners!

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

B. Some Deny That They Are Bad Enough Sinners!

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

The standard of righteousness that we come short of is the righteousness found in Jesus Christ—He is the glory of God!

C. Some Deny That They Are Condemned Already!

John 3:18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

D. Some Deny That There Is A God To Answer To!

Psalms 14:1 – "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." (Cf. Psalm 53:1)

*Philippians 2:9-11 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

All those living in denial will acknowledge that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD one day!

IV. SOME FOLKS ARE RUNNING IN THE LANE OF GOOD WORKS AND/OR LAWKEEPING!

But the Bible is very clear on this matter!

Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Ephesians 2:8-9 "8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Galatians 2:16 16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Now it matters not the extent of one's lawkeeping, it will NOT get you to heaven! It's the wrong road!

James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

V. SOME FOLKS ARE RUNNING IN OTHER LANES—THE LANES OF WHATEVER YOU ARE DEPENDING ON APART FROM CHRIST AND CHRIST ALONE! (Just fill in the blank!)

And do know that I'm not doubting the SINCERITY of such folks! However, one can be SINCERE while being SINCERELY WRONG and still be on THE ROAD TO DESTRUCTION!

And this is Paul's point in the book of Galatians! To add **ANYTHING** to **REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD AND FAITH TOWARD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** is to render the Gospel as **NOT THE GOSPEL AT ALL!**

VI. LET'S LOOK AT THAT OTHER ROAD—"THE ROAD WHICH LEADETH UNTO LIFE!

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

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The Right Road Is The Road Of Repentance!

It heads in a different direction! Both roads are ONE WAY!
You have to CHANGE DIRECTION! You have to admit you
are headed in the WRONG DIRECTION! Then, GET OFF
THE ROAD YOU WERE BORN ON AND GET ON THE
RIGHT ROAD WITH JESUS!

Matthew 7:14 *“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

All Other Roads Lead To Destruction!

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

The Right Road Leads To Life! (Everlasting Life!)

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The Right Road Is The Calvary Road Of The Cross!

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The Right Road Is The Road Of The Blood Of Christ!

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Ephesians 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

The Right Road Is The Road Of Obedience!

Obeying the Gospel puts us on the right road!

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And listen, the Gospel that saves us teaches us to run with patience the race that the LORD has for us! Not FOR our salvation, but BECAUSE OF our salvation!

Titus 2:11-13 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

1. It Teaches Us To Leave! Vs 12a

2. It Teaches Us To Live! Vs 12b

3. It Teaches Us To Look! Vs 13
Keep your eye on the finish line! Don't get distracted!

4. It Teaches Us To Lean! (Vs 14)
Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

The Right Road Is The Road Of Faith!

We get saved by grace through faith...and then we run the race the same way by grace through faith!

One of the greatest problem in Churches today is to get the members to stay on the road. Sadly, many folks in Churches, even some Church members, aren't even on the right road! And sadly, many that are on the right road have allowed themselves to be hindered from running their race!

The Right Road Leads To Holy Living!

We are commanded to live holy lives for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Conclusion

RUNNING WELL...It can only be accomplished if you are on the right road!
Are you on the right road today? Are you on the ROAD THAT LEADS TO
LIFE?

When you point back to where you say you got saved, were you depending on
ANYTHING other than the FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST? If so, you've
been hoodwinked by the devil!

Cast everything else aside today and embrace Christ and Christ alone!
That's the BEGINNING of being able to RUN WELL!