

Bumped Off Course

Galatians 5:7-12

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Flight from Pontiac, Illinois to Cadillac, Michigan
- Christian living is a series of small corrections that we must make if we are to stay on course.
- Our enemy is an expert in bumping us off course
- Possible for false teachers/preachers to infiltrate Bible-believing, Bible teaching churches
- Main teaching that affects churches like ours is LEGALISM
- Legalism is dangerous for it robs us of our freedom and enjoyment of the spiritual blessings

Bumped Off Course

A. Five Characteristics of the “Bumpers”—Galatians 5:7-11

- 1. They hinder spiritual progress—Galatians 5:7**
 - a. The Christian life is a “race”. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Hebrews 12:1
 - b. Legalism hinders spiritual progress.
 - 1) The Galatians had started well.
 - 2) The legalists were hindering them from “*obeying the truth*”.
- 2. They are not from God—Galatians 5:8**
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Galatians 1:6-7
- 3. They contaminate the church—Galatians 5:9**
 - a. “Leaven” pictures something small that permeates and contaminates a much larger mass.
 - b. Two “small” things in Scripture which left untreated can spread and contaminate.
 - 1) Sin—1 Corinthians 5:5-7
 - 2) False Teaching—Matthew 16:6, 12
- 4. They will be judged by God—Galatians 5:10**
 - a. Paul’s confidence in the Lord that the true gospel of grace had taken root and would bring forth fruit.—Philippians 1:6-7
 - b. Paul’s confidence that the false teachers would be judged.
 - 1) General warning to all teachers—James 3:1
 - 2) Specific warning to false teachers—Matthew 18:6; 2 Peter 2:2-3, 5; Jude 13
- 5. They persecute teachers of truth—Galatians 5:11**
 - a. Accused Paul of speaking out of both sides of his mouth when it comes to circumcision.
 - b. If Paul is preaching circumcision, then why is he being persecuted?
 - c. The stumbling block of the cross of Christ. Acts 4:13; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21-24

B. Proper Response to the “Bumpers”—Galatians 5:12

- 1. Paul’s attitude expressed in crude terms.**
- 2. Our response to false teachers—2 John 7-11; 1 Timothy 4:16**