

Unto the Churches of Galatia.

by Martin Luther

Martin Luther's sermon emphasizes the challenges faced by the churches of Galatia from false apostles and reassures believers of the enduring nature of the Gospel's grace.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18, 1 Corinthians 15:58, 2 Timothy 3:12, 1 Peter 4:12

Topics: "Persecution", "Means Of Grace"

Description

Martin Luther preaches about the challenges faced by God's ministers in dealing with opposition from both the wicked world and religious fanatics who quickly undo years of patient indoctrination. He highlights the importance of enduring persecution and mistreatment, finding comfort and glory in the promise of everlasting life for those called by God. Luther emphasizes that despite the presence of false brethren and those who stray from the Gospel, the means of grace such as baptism and the Word of God remain divine and uncontaminated, signifying the presence of the Holy Church.

Transcript

Paul had preached the Gospel throughout Galatia, founding many churches which after his departure were invaded by the false apostles. The Anabaptists in our time imitate the false apostles. They do not go where the enemies of the Gospel predominate. They go where the Christians are. Why do they not invade the Catholic provinces and preach their doctrine to godless princes, bishops, and doctors, as we have done by the help of God? These soft martyrs take no chances. They go where the Gospel has a hold, so that they may not endanger their lives. The false apostles would not go to Jerusalem of Caiaphas, or to the Rome of the Emperor, or to any other place where no man had preached before as Paul and the other apostles did. But they came to the churches of Galatia, knowing that where men profess the name of Christ they may feel secure.

It is the lot of God's ministers not only to suffer opposition at the hand of a wicked world, but also to see the patient indoctrination of many years quickly undone by such religious fanatics. This hurts more than the persecution of tyrants. We are treated shabbily on the outside by tyrants, on the inside by those whom we have restored to the liberty of the Gospel, and also by false brethren. But this is our comfort and our glory, that being called of God we have the promise of everlasting life. We look for that reward which "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man."

Jerome raises the question why Paul called them churches that were no churches, inasmuch as the Galatians had forsaken the grace of Christ for the law of Moses. The proper answer is: Although the

Galatians had fallen away from the doctrine of Paul, baptism, the Gospel, and the name of Christ continued among them. Not all the Galatians had become perverted. There were some who clung to the right view of the Word and the Sacraments. These means cannot be contaminated. They remain divine regardless of men's opinion. Wherever the means of grace are found, there is the Holy Church, even though Antichrist reigns there. So much for the title of the epistle. Now follows the greeting of the apostle.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/martin-luther/unto-the-churches-of-galatia/>

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