



**SERIES: We Are Free December 2022-January 2023**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, December 9, 2022**

**Scripture: Galatians 1:10; James 4:17**

**TITLE: Who Will You Choose?**

The Monkees wrote a song called, "Look Out (Here Comes Tomorrow)." In that song, Davy Jones sings about a predicament he's in. He is apparently in love with two different women. He sings, "But I can't have both of them. Don't know what to do. Look out, here comes tomorrow. Oh, how I wish tomorrow would never come."

Are you like Davy Jones? Are you torn between two lovers? Are you torn between loving the world and loving God?

If so, you're not alone. Many people today, many Christians today, are feeling torn between trying to win the approval of man and trying to win the approval of God.

The question is can we do both? That's what we want to talk about today in Galatians 1:10.

*For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

Paul uses a rhetorical question to emphasize that he is not trying to please people. Remember that Paul has just said that those who are preaching a false gospel should be accursed. Therefore, he is distinguishing himself from them. He is saying these people are distorting the Gospel, and there is a price to pay. Therefore look at me. Have I sold out? Am I a slave to the approval of other people? Or am I a slave to God? Because you cannot serve both God and man. This is why Paul would go on to say at the end of verse 10 that if he were still trying to please man, he would not be a servant of Christ.

The fact that he is calling out these false teachers shows he is not going to please people but instead he is trying to please God. It is clear Paul is not concerned about winning the approval of people but instead the approval of God.

Remember, what you tolerate, you promote. James 4:17 says,

*So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

The reality is we are not called to be divisive as Christians, but we are also not to be cowards. The apostles were committed to sound doctrine. They called out the error for what it was. Paul would hear some really stinging names as he called out these false teachers. I'm not saying we go

out and just do name calling. That's ineffective and rude. But we need to come back to the Bible daily so we can discern the right doctrine from the wrong doctrine.

We need to be willing to look foolish in front of the world to look right before God. That means calling out brothers and sisters in Christ who are teaching, adopting, promoting, and tolerating false doctrine.

How are you doing in choosing God or people? When you look at your daily life, are you involved in winning the approval of others or of God? Is it possible to do both? Well, of course, it is. When you aim to do your work with integrity and with excellence, you glorify God. When you serve at your local church, if your church is meeting right now and your motives are right, you both please God, and you are pleasing people because you are serving them.

But if we're not careful, we will give up doctrine to get votes of approval. We have an audience of one: God. His love does not change based on your behavior. But when you've received a gift so great as His love and forgiveness, why would you ever choose anyone else?