

“Boats Of Grace”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Have you ever noticed how many types of boats there are? Each boat, be it large or small, has a specific function, but they all also share the same basic one: they all get people and cargo across water.

We Believers are like boats. We are floating in the waters of this world rescuing people from drowning in their sin. God has given us each special gifts and tasks to do, but as The Sojourner has said before, we all have what the military calls the “General Orders of the Day”. We are all on this earth to glorify our Heavenly Father and spread his gospel so others will be drawn to our “boats” and we can help them out of the ocean of this world into boats of grace.

Some of our boats are huge ocean liners and others are little fishing boats, but regardless of the size or specific design of our boats, we all have the same “General Orders”. Anyone who has ever watched barges on a river can attest to the reliance barges have on tug

Notes:

boats. Both of these vessels can float, and can be used to help people out of the water, but the barge needs the tug boat. Likewise, we Believers need each other. God created us to be Christ’s Body on the earth therefore we are to work together, each using his own special gifts, in our shared purposes of glorifying our Heavenly Father and spreading the Gospel so others can come into the Kingdom of God. As we work together in our shared purpose let’s remember:

15Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col. 3:15-17 (NIV)

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“Not From Men” (Teaching Sketch)

Galatians 1:1-10



The Apostle^[1] Paul was used by God to lay much of the foundation of how a Believer is to relate to God, relate to other Believers, and relate to non-believers.

Paul’s Authority

One could hardly argue that Paul was not a man of authority^[2] and power.^[3] Paul preached the Gospel, instructed Believers, rebuked Believers, and performed miracles by the power of God in the name of Jesus.

The Standard

Paul, without a doubt, set much of the standard for how to follow Jesus. Following Jesus is more a matter of submission than anything. The knowledge base for walking with God is not a matter of mystery. The matter is one of knowing the Word and holding on to it as, “the way, the truth, and the life.” There is no substitute for being in the Word, fellowshiping with the

Word, and doing the Word!

Life outside the Word is only a counterfeit life for it is a life in anti-Christ. Not walking in God’s Word of grace, not accepting Christ, is to be outside of Christ, dead in sin, “missing the mark.” That is, as a matter of fact, the meaning of “anti” here. It is “outside of.” Most think of “anti” as against in an active sense, but “anti” can and does also mean “without” such as a “anti-room” to a home, office, or auditorium.

Inside & On Mark

Paul was always directing his hearers to remain in Christ and to strive for the mark expected of by God.

There is a good example of this found in our scripture in verses six through nine. Paul confronts the issue directly when he says, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you...” The

Notes:
[1] Apostle=sent one
[2] Greek word often translated as power exousia=authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength,
[3] Greek word often translated as power such as dynamis—miraculous, ability, abundance

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Galatians 1:1-10 (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle^[a]—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers with me, To the churches in Galatia:
³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

No Other Gospel

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally

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[a]
Sent one.

condemned!
¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

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Apostle is not looking to show any superiority in saying this but to confront the issue and deal with it.

The Straight Path

We are told in scripture, if we stay in step with God he will make our path straight. The straight path does not come from men but from God, just as Paul’s appointment as an Apostle did not come from men but from God (see verse 1).

Paul, at the end of verse ten, makes a very strong statement, “If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Now, that is a very strong thing for him to say! Think about it. How can a path be straight if there is no certain plan for the path to go from one place to another. Who is there who has not consulted a Road Atlas if they intend to take a journey (sojourn) into previously unknown places. If you ask 30 people, one may get thirty opinions as to the best route to take. Not from men do we get the straight path of authority and power, but from the Word!

Just so you’ll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

