



The United States is well known for awarding their highest military recognition, the Medal of Honor, to those who display extreme courage and bravery... those who willingly risk their lives to save others. Ever done anything to deserve this?

Let's examine two Biblical Christians... one worthy of God's Medal of Honor... one displaying cowardice in battle!

In **Galatians 2** we read of Paul's public confrontation of Peter for his hypocritical and sinful actions against the Gospel.

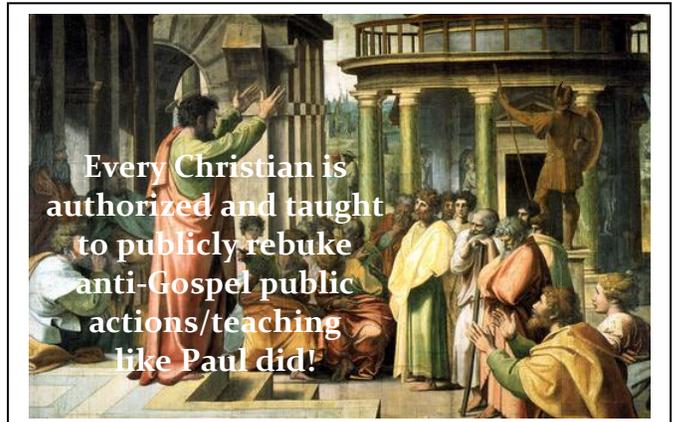
We learn many lessons from this confrontation and Biblical teaching:

1. Paul taught us that any Christian can rebuke false actions/teaching that is contrary to the Gospel, even if (and especially if) coming from church leaders.
2. When false actions and false teaching are conducted in public, then the rebuke is to be conducted in public, rather than privately. (People that publicly heard or saw the wrong actions/teaching need to hear that what they saw/heard was false. The truth needs to be revealed to them).
3. Galatians informs us that Paul operated his ministry independent (no "covering") of the apostles Peter, James, John, etc. that were in Jerusalem. He only briefly met with them twice in 17 years (**1:18-19, 2:2, 9**). He never sought their approval, but only to work in harmony with them.
4. Peter initially acted correctly, but when Jews from James came he became a coward, which led to the corruption of the people in Antioch, including Barnabas himself (**2:13**)! (Peter's position in the Church, caused people to accept and follow what he was doing... even a lie!)

Peter had backslidden and became a fearful coward and a "people-pleaser". His actions were distorting the Gospel's truth, as Paul points out during his public rebuke of Peter. Peter's actions were not only leading people astray but his actions also cursed him, as we read in **Galatians 1:8**, "**As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.**" NKJV

So as Christians, worthy of the Life and Blood that Jesus spent for us and the Gospel given to us that we're commanded to spread to others, we want to adopt this teaching into our lives and into the lives of those we come in contact with... through our actions and our words.

We want to at all time (especially publicly) crush anti-Gospel lies and hold the flag of courage high and in front of us like Paul did!



So in this Biblical teaching, how do we act like Paul (a courageous Christian) instead of like Peter (a cowardly Christian) when the opportunity or battle is in front of us?

How do we avoid being part of perverting the Gospel, thus ceasing to be a servant of Christ and how do we avoid being cursed (**Galatians 1:6-10**)?

How do we win God's eternal Medal of Honor?

I can pick many examples but here's a recent headline that we can use to assist our study... "A group of Omaha (Nebraska, USA) pastors has issued a proclamation that states homosexuality is not a sin. More than 100 ordained Christian ministers have signed the proclamation, including leaders from Lutheran, Episcopalian, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, and Presbyterian churches" (Quoted from July 23, 2011 Prophecy News Watch headlines).

These 100+ pastors and any that follow them, have ceased being servants of Christ and are cursed (**Galatians 1:6-10**). They are corrupting other leaders and Christians by teaching a false Gospel that many, even non-Christians will accept as true. People in Omaha should publicly rebuke them, certainly leave their churches and question why all 5 of these major denominations have not fired these leaders from their positions and stripped them of their ordinations! If one was a member of one of these 5 denominations, one should sever all ties and break all verbal and written covenants/oaths/memberships/fellowship with them in order to be set free from openings to demonic spirits, especially religious and sexual spirits. Any people that continue to accept or attend these corrupt fellowships, have by their actions (such as with Peter's actions) shown that they accept an anti-Gospel doctrine and have cursed themselves!

We must each examine our lives to distance ourselves from all leaders, denominations, people and personal actions that are anti-Gospel. We cannot be seen by others and especially by God to be accepting of anything in our lives that is anti-Gospel. (Old saying: Actions speak louder than words!)

Then we must boldly, gallantly and publicly step forward when we see or hear any anti-Gospel actions.

If someone sins in a non-public way, hidden or in private... "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector." **Matthew 18:15-17 NKJV**

If the church leadership/body refuses to follow the Gospel (refuses to deal with unrepentant sinners), then by their actions, as with Peter's actions, they are to be publicly rebuked, as it's become a public matter.

Sin or anti-Gospel doctrine that is done, said, and accepted or compromised with in public by leaders, must be dealt with in public, for the reasons that we just learned in **Galatians 2** and this study.

Some other examples of public actions/teachings that we must publicly confront for Christ, the Gospel and to protect others are:

\*Let it be known by our words and actions that we do not accept through compromise or indifference those who are anti-Jesus as the only Savior or anti-Bible (i.e. atheism, b'hai, buddhism, freemasonry, hinduism, islam, Jehovah witness, judaism, mormonism, new age).

\*We do not yoke ourselves in business, in marriage, in friendship nor in fellowship with any who are anti-Jesus as the only Savior or any who teach a doctrine that is anti-Gospel. This includes anti-Christian governments such as atheist, communist, islamic or hindu-controlled countries.

\*We look to Biblical Gospel in how we deal with those that sin in private and those who sin in public (**Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 2**).

\*We differentiate between those acceptable practices and teachings that are extra-Biblical as opposed to those that are unacceptable/unbiblical... (i.e. Sunday Schools or teaching via the internet are extra-Biblical or not mentioned in the Bible but they're not unbiblical or contrary to what is mentioned in the Bible).

\*That some Christians are not more acceptable/more favored by God (**Rom. 2:11**) (Like Peter acted with Jew.-Christ. vs. Gentile-Christians).

\*We rebuke organizations, denominations, ministries, leaders and people proclaiming to be Christian that compromise with or accept sexual sin (homosexuality, adultery, fornication), occult practices, false religions (islam, hindu, native cults, pseudo-Christian, etc.).

\*We publicly rebuke all false, unbiblical and anti-Gospel doctrines, actions and teachings coming through the church when they present themselves (i.e. forgiveness through works/a priest; salvation through water baptism, being good or only through a specific denomination; worshipping or bowing to a communion wafer/Jesus' mother/dead saints; Holy Spirit baptism automatically received at confirmation; Jesus' mother's omniscience/immaculate conception/co-redemptrix position or her equality with the Triune God; that one person/pope holds the keys to life and death; that the communion wafer is God-incarnate; existence of purgatory; any display/reverence/devotion or worship of statues/idols/icons/"sacred objects" of the dead; "once saved, always saved" doctrine; rejection of the Holy Spirit's gifts and demonstrations of His power; replacing the hierarchy of the 5 offices of the church structure (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers (**Ephesians 4:11**) with popes/cardinals/priests/monks/nuns; that everyone eventually gets to heaven (universalism); that the 5 church offices can only be acceptable or come through a council/seminary/college/organization; that only "special" Christians are saints; that satan is chained now and/or is not a threat to Christians; that Christians can't have evil spirits in them; that there are no evil spiritual principalities/evil powers that we war against; lent/good friday/easter)... all false, unbiblical or anti-Gospel doctrines.

We are here to worship and be obedient to the Triune God... not religion, not people, not ourselves. Any acts or words contrary to this must be dealt with or why bother "playing Christian", as it will catch up to us during our judgement (**Hebrews 9:27, Rev. 20: 12-13**). Be courageous for Christ! Good Hunting!