PAUL'S FIRST JOURNEY: AD 47–49

PAUL'S SECOND JOURNEY: AD 49–51

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Paul's short-term missions trip to Galatia had been a rousing success. Here are some of the press clippings.

- In Pisidian Antioch "many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas.
- When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord.
- The word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region" (Acts 13:43, 48–49).
- At Iconium Paul and Barnabas "spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed" (14:1).
- In Lystra they were welcomed like gods (Acts 14:11–13).
- Then at Derbe "they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples" (Acts 14:21).

It was quite a trip. Sinners were saved. Miracles were performed. Churches were planted. It was one of the most successful missionary journeys in the history of Christianity, which is why Paul could hardly believe that the Galatians were falling away already. As soon as he left, the Judaizers came. In no time at all, the church was giving up the gospel. How fickle! Yet this is a reminder how easy it is to fall away unless we are kept safe by God's grace.

The apostle was going through what Moses went through when he came down from Mount Sinai to find God's people worshiping the golden calf. The great prophet had been up with God having the ultimate mountaintop experience. "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them' " (Exodus 32:7–8).

[Ryken, P. G. (2005). Galatians. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.) (p. 17). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.]

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