

It's Just A little Item  
"IT'S JUST A LITTLE ITEM"

BY

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It happened in the area of Galatia. Some had professed faith in Jesus as the God-appointed Mediator between God and man. They had believed that there is none other Name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. They professed that Jesus was *the way*, *the truth*, and *the life*, and that no one could come unto the Father but by Him.

Not long after the preaching of Paul there came others who said, *It is not enough to simply believe on Jesus' Work alone for justification before God. You must add another item to this: circumcision.* They taught that faith in Jesus plus circumcision was the way to be saved. Circumcision was necessary. It is this with which Paul deals in his letter to the visible churches in Galatia.

It may seem to be just one *little item* ... a small addition to the faith ... an innocent matter ... nothing to make a fuss about. After all, it will do no harm, so long as we believe in Jesus' Work for us.

Paul, however, was not influenced by the philosophy of our day: *Be positive. Say nothing negative. Don't be unkind and unloving. Let it go! Look over it! It's a harmless matter! It is inconsequential!*

Paul did not seek to be politically correct.

Instead, he launched a broadside attack against the added item . . . circumcision. Nothing must be placed alongside Jesus'

Work in a way of satisfaction or adoration.

There must be absolutely no reliance upon, or a looking to, anything, or anyone, besides Jesus' Work in laying down His life for His sheep. As the poet has written, Jesus paid it all, and that's it!

Paul's words are vehemently strong:

"Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." (Galatians 5:2-9) "And I, brethren, if I yet preach

Why do I yet suffer  
is the offence of the  
Galatians 5:11)

are so soon removed  
and you into the grace of  
the gospel: Which is not  
to be some that trouble  
and pervert the gospel of  
Galatians 1:6, 7)

Men, who hath bewitched  
did not obey the truth,  
Jesus Christ hath been  
crucified among you?  
earn of you, Received  
the works of the law, or  
faith? Are ye so foolish?  
the Spirit, are ye now  
the flesh? Have ye  
things in vain? if it be  
before that ministereth  
and worketh miracles  
the it by the works of  
the hearing of faith?"

... who was with me,  
was compelled to be  
that because of false  
brought in, who came  
our liberty which we  
sus, that they might  
age: To whom we gave  
no, not for an hour;  
the gospel might  
(Galatians 2:3-5)

... those who have  
error into the visible

"I have confidence in you through the  
Lord, that ye will be none otherwise  
minded: but he that troubleth you shall  
bear his judgment, whosoever he be."  
(Galatians 5:10)

"I would they were even cut off which  
trouble you." (Galatians 5:12)

"But though we, or an angel from heaven,  
preach any other gospel unto you than  
that which we have preached unto you,  
let him be accursed. As we said before, so  
say I now again, If any man preach any  
other gospel unto you than that ye have  
received, let him be accursed." (Galatians  
1:8,9)

We see, then, that what might be  
considered a little item . . . a mere  
addendum... might be a damnable thing.  
Some might believe it.

There is one matter that we must have  
clear in our understanding of the Gospel:  
it is Christ's Work plus nothing. *Sola*  
(only) was one of the watch cries of the  
Reformation. *Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide,*  
*Soli Deo Gloria.* The same was true of  
Jesus' Work. It alone was salvation. The  
Puritans called it 'The Finished Work'.

The Reformation took place within the  
Roman Catholic system. It sought to  
sweep away any additions to the work of  
Jesus. If one has a true, saving, heart  
knowledge of the work of Jesus, one will  
realise that nothing else is necessary.

It may take a while for the Roman  
Catholic to be weaned from attending the  
Sacrifice of the Mass, but he will be.

Jesus' sacrifice was once for all, and fully  
adequate. "Who needeth not daily, as  
those high priests, to offer up sacrifice,  
first for his own sins, and then for the  
people's: for this he did once, when he  
offered up himself. For the law maketh  
men high priests which have infirmity;  
but the word of the oath, which was since  
the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated  
for evermore." (Hebrews 7:27). How then  
could a true believer go through the  
hocus-pocus of the idolatrous Mass?

It may take a while for the Roman  
Catholic to stop confessing his sins to a  
human priest who is a sinner like himself.  
This reality has certainly been evidenced  
by the recent allegations against priests  
regarding homosexuality and, especially,  
child abuse. This makes them little  
different from the Buddhist monks in  
Tibet who practice *Drombo* and use  
children for this sexual purpose.

It may take a while for the Roman  
Catholic to stop believing in a Purgatory  
when he realises that in justifying the  
sinner, God has declared him legally  
righteous for Jesus' sake. No further  
purging from sin to enter Heaven is  
necessary.

These are just a few of the items that are  
considered 'little' by many. The  
Ecumenical Movement, and many in it,  
who profess to have been born again, are  
ready to accept as credible the profession  
of a Roman Catholic to be a Christian,  
even though he still holds on to the Mass  
and a myriad of Rome's other lying errors.

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### "Faith in Faith is no Faith"

and, sad to say, an error that may damn the soul.

The Arminian who truly understands the Gospel must cease to say *God loves everybody* (in a universal sense), *Jesus made an atonement for all, and we must give Him a chance to save us by making a decision for Him*. This is similar to the error introduced into the Galatian visible churches all over again, and it is not such a little item. Yes, little items are important: it is the little foxes that "spoil the vines." (Song of Solomon 2:15)

This matter may be applied even beyond Roman Catholicism and Arminianism. We live in a day when there is much rubbish in the visible church and even amongst those who profess to be in Biblically oriented, Orthodox, Reformed churches.

It is considered a *little item* to use a perversion of the providentially preserved Word of God: *any version* (perversion) will do, so long as you understand it better. It doesn't really matter what God has eternally said and preserved for us.

It is considered a *little item* as to how we worship God. We can add, or use only, uninspired human compositions set to music in place of, or alongside of, the God-ordered use of Biblical Psalms.

It is considered a *little item* that we follow a calendar of pagan Feast Days camouflaged in Christian language: December 25th with its idolatry, the creche; Easter, the Feast to the Goddess

of the Dawn, used as a day to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Where has *Sola Scriptura* gone? Where is so-called Good Friday in the Bible? What has become of the God-ordered Sabbath which celebrates Jesus' resurrection once a week every week? Why should we utilise a pagan Feast to emphasise a certain Sabbath day above others? Is it just because there are those who say that there is no harm in it? It's just a little item to enhance the day.

All of these things are similar to the Galatian error. They are considered harmless entities, edifying additions. Yet, all the while they cry to God, *Not enough! Not enough!* Something must be added by us to satisfy You. What an insult this is to the Lord God Almighty who has satisfied Himself by Himself pertaining to the need of those whom He has ordained to eternal life, and has prescribed the way of approach to Him both pertaining to salvation and in worship! They that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in TRUTH!

Let us stop saying then, *It's just a little item*. I believe in Jesus and it doesn't really matter what I add to my profession, so long as I believe. It's still a credible profession of faith. This is a most dangerous course to pursue for it may mean that you haven't really understood the Gospel at all. It may mean that you haven't really been born again and are, to all intents and purposes, if we read evidences at this present moment, on your way to the awful Hell that God has described in His Word.