

## Zealously Going The Wrong Way – Galatians 1:13, 14

Going the wrong way on a freeway is easy to define, that driver is wrong! How do you help someone who is going the wrong way in their doctrine or has a personal idea that does not match Scripture at all? Saul of Tarsus believed that he was doing the right thing by persecuting the early church. He was doing it out of deep conviction of faith, even if he was **Zealously Going The Wrong Way**.

*By faith and no truth*

### 1. Completely wrong way

**Galatians 1:13** For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, **how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God**, and wasted it: **14** And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, **being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers**.

#### a. Saul of Tarsus – Saul the Persecutor

**Philippians 3:6** Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

**Acts 8:3** As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

**Acts 9:4, 5** And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:** it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

#### b. Jonah the Prophet – hoped for the worse

**Jonah 1:1** Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, **2** Arise, **go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.** **3** But **Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD**, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

**Jonah 4:2** And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, **was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country?** Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou *art* a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

*by zealous faith, lacking truth*

### 2. Needing Correct Directions

#### a. Simon the Sorcerer – Ministry for Money

**Acts 8:13** Then **Simon himself believed also**: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

**Acts 8:18** And **when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,** **19** Saying, **Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.** **20** But Peter said unto him, **Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.** **21** **Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.** **22** Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. **23** For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. **24** Then answered

Simon, and said, **Pray ye to the Lord for me**, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

**b. Judaizers – Circumcision and Rules**

**Acts 15:1** And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, **Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.**

**Acts 15:24** Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom **we gave no such commandment:**

**c. Apollos – Salvation through Baptism**

**Acts 18:24** And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, **knowing only the baptism of John.** **26** And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom **when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**

*don't punch or punch out*

**3. How To Coach the Incorrect**

**a. In MEEKNESS - 2 Timothy 2:24, 25**

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; **but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing** those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

**b. Speaking In the Truth in LOVE - Ephesians 4:15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

**c. 1<sup>st</sup> One to One - Matthew 18:15**

**15** Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: **if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.** **16** But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. **17** And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. **18** Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **Deuteronomy 19:15-21; Titus 3:10-11;**

**d. Don't Be Mean, Just Don't Hang Out - 2 Thessalonians 3:14**

And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. **15** Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

**e. Your Goal is to Win Your Brother Back to Truth - Matthew 18:15**

“...if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother”

**Proverbs 11:30** The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and **he that winneth souls is wise.**