

proclamation. Liberalism would have conquered the world.

"Fortunately liberalism was not the method of Paul. Paul was not a practical Christian who regarded life as superior to doctrine, and practice superior to principle. On the contrary, he overcame the principle of Jewish particularism in the only way in which it could be overcome; he overcame principle by principle. It was not Paul the practical missionary, but Paul the theologian, who was the real apostle to the Gentiles."

Now, what happened when Paul carried out this principle? He went to Damascus and preached Christ, that He was the Son of God. But "the Jews took counsel to kill him," and finally he was only able to escape by being let "down by the wall in a basket." Immediately, he was engaged in the world's greatest battle. And he knew it, too.

He went to Antioch in Pisidia, went into the synagogue, and preached a tremendous sermon. He spoke of Samuel and Saul. He talked about David and boldly declared that God, according to His promise, had raised up of David's seed a Saviour, Jesus. He told of the crucifixion, and said then, "But God raised him from the dead." He even experienced no corruption. Paul dared to tell these religious Jews, "By him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." The Gentiles who heard him were thrilled; but in just a few days, the Jews gathered their strength and actually threw Paul out of town. A battle? Yes.

There was another kind of battle that Paul experienced. Oftentimes today this same problem arises. The problem? Compromise. Peter had had a tremendous change after Christ's resurrection. But he ran into a problem. There came a time when he felt it was expedient to lower his Christian

convictions, which were based solidly upon the Word of God, in order to appease some Jewish Christians who had come from Jerusalem. To make matters worse, his actions, his example of compromise, affected many more Christians, including Barnabas.

Is not this just like today? We need a few more people like Paul today to get some Christians straightened out. Because Paul wrote that "When Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed" (Gal. 2:11).

Yes, we look at Paul and his life and ministry and we rejoice in what the Lord did for him and through him. But can we not recognize that everything Paul did was accomplished only through tremendous struggles? He battled Satan and Satan's army to his dying day! He wrote Timothy and gave warning after warning about what he would encounter: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Then he told Timothy about his own life and ministry. Paul wrote, "Thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (vv. 10-12).