In my previous post I indicated that among the lost writings of early Christianity, one batch that I would especially like to see discovered would be those produced by Paul’s enemies among the Christians. I don’t know how many of his opponents were writing-literate, but possibly some of them were, and their own attacks on him and defenses of their own positions would be fascinating and eye-opening. Among these, I would especially love to see what his opponents in Galatia had to say for themselves. My hunch is that they were every bit as aggressive and confident in their views as Paul was in his.

I’ve always found the letter to the Galatians to be one of the most forceful, intriguing, and difficult letters of Paul. I’ve studied it for over forty years, and there are still verses that I don’t understand. My view is that most scholars don’t understand them either — even the scholars who think they do! It is a packed and theologically dense letter in places.

But the basic point is clear. A person is made right with God by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus, not by observing the Jewish law. Gentiles who believe in Jesus must not think that they have to follow the law in order to be fully justified before God. Anyone who thinks so — who, for example, decides that he needs to be circumcised — has completely (not just kind-a) misunderstood the gospel and is in danger of losing his salvation.

Paul’s opponents among the Galatians think just the opposite.

As with all of Paul’s letters, the only way...

THE REST OF THIS POST IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY. If you don’t belong yet, JOIN WHILE THERE IS STILL HOPE!!! It doesn’t cost much, and all the money goes to charity!!

You need to be logged in to see this part of the content. Please Login to access.

Is Paul at Odds with Matthew?
Lost Letters of Paul’s Opponents