

4-28-17 AM

Hindrances To The Gospel

- **Galatians 5:7** *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*
- **1 Corinthians 9:12** *If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.*
- **1 Thessalonians 2:18** *Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.*

Introduction: Through the years I have seen some good people serving God and running their race well. Then something happened; they took their eyes off the goal, got off track, and became casualties of the ministry. I have seen it happen over and over again. It breaks my heart to see this, but there is no need to be naive; it happens all the time. I want to finish well, living for God, serving Him with all of my heart.

① PEOPLE

Isn't it interesting that the Apostle did not ask what hindered you, why you were hindered, how you were hindered, when you were hindered, or even where you were hindered, but who hindered you? The word *hinder* means "to slow down, to impede progress, or to delay." He is asking who got in your way that caused you to slow down or quit running. The Bible says nothing about how fast you run, but it has much to say about how well you run.

Who did hinder you. Marg., *drive you back.* The word means, properly, *to beat or drive back.* Hence it means to hinder, check, or retard.

Dr. Doddridge remarks that this is "an Olympic expression, and properly signifies *coming across the course* while a person is running in it, in such a manner as to jostle, and throw him out of the way."

Paul asks, with emphasis, who it could have been that retarded them in their Christian course, implying that it could have been done only by their own consent, or that there was really no cause why they should not have continued as they began.

A. T. Robertson Galatians 5:7

Who did hinder you? ... to cut in on one, for all the world like our use of one cutting in on us at the telephone. Note the singular *tis*. There was some ringleader in the business. Someone "cut in" on the Galatians as they were running the Christian race and tried to trip them or to turn them.

There are three things that will help you continue without being "hindered:"

* THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE YOU MUST FORGIVE

Bitterness has derailed many Christians who used to run well. Remember what Jesus said on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." They didn't ask for forgiveness, nor did they think they needed forgiveness; but the Son of God forgave them anyway. There will be people in your life along the way whom you must forgive so that you are not hindered in this race of the Christian life.

* THERE ARE SOME FOLKS YOU NEED TO FORGET

You know in your heart that they continually impede your progress for God. Many of these people are good people; they are just not traveling at the same pace you are. They are not as consumed with the goal as they should be, and if you allow them, they will hinder you—perhaps even make it their goal to do so. Forgive them, forget them, and keep moving on.

* THERE ARE SOME THAT YOU MUST FORSAKE

These are the people who are not going in the same direction. Beware and stay away—these create a grave danger for you. They are in a different category altogether. They will do more than impede your progress; they will derail you so that you are no longer running.

I meet people all of the time who are what I call "used-to-be" Christians. They used to sing in the choir; they used to usher; they used to go to church; they used to teach Sunday school; they used to run a bus route. To those I say, "What happened? You were running so well!"

② PROBLEMS — *within the church*
I Cor 9:12 / 2 Cor 11:23-28
Paul's Problems/Diff./Perils/etc

③ PRIDE — I Thes. 2:18 — Satan — author of Pride
5 "I will" — Isa 14
} Root
} Reach
} Rule