

a different gospel

Galatians



Sermon Series Notes

"Freedom From The Law" (Galatians 3)

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I. THE GREAT POTENTIAL FOR DECEPTION (3:1-5)

A. Paul's Passionate Rebuke

* Paul is perplexed at how they could accept the truth of the gospel, then so quickly be led away from that truth.

B. The Myriad Of False Teachings In The World

* Note: Satan will use any means he can to take you in the wrong direction - Religious deception, or any other kind of deception/temptation... I Tim.4:1-5

* JW's - Be baptized as a JW. Heaven is limited to 144,000 "anointed ones." Most JW's earn everlasting life by door to door evangelism.

* Mormon - Resurrected by grace, but exalted to godhood by works, which include faithfulness to church leaders, Mormon baptism, tithing, ordination, marriage, & secret temple rituals.

* Unification - Everyone is saved, including Satan. After death everyone goes to the spirit world. There is no resurrection. One advances by convincing others to follow Sun Myung Moon.

* Scientology - No sin or need to repent. Salvation is freedom from reincarnation. One must work with an "auditor" on his "engrams" (hang-ups) to achieve the state of "clear," then progress up the bridge to total freedom.

* New Age - Need to offset bad karma with good karma. One can tap into spiritual power through meditation, self-awareness, & spirit guides. They use terms like "reborn" for success.

* Islam

* Buddhism - Eliminate all desires and cravings through "The Eightfold Path."

1. Right View Wisdom
2. Right Intention
3. Right Speech Ethical Conduct
4. Right Action
5. Right Livelihood
6. Right Effort Mental Development
7. Right Mindfulness
8. Right Concentration

* Judasim - Gib Allen & CC Orlando

* Catholic - God's grace infuses a supernatural gift of faith in Christ in those who

are baptized, and this faith is maintained by doing works of love and receiving Penance & The Eucharist.

* Church of Christ - Baptism required, as is perseverance in holiness.

C. Paul's Pointed Questions

* How did you receive the Spirit of God?

- Note: When I became a Christian, God did not say to me, "Get off those drugs first" or "Get your hair cut first" or start obeying the Law first."

* Upon what basis does the Spirit work in your life?

* Are you now trying to achieve your goal by human effort? (See Col.2:6-14).

II. PAUL'S PROOF OF THE TRUTH (3:6-18)

A. The Example Of Abraham (3:6-9)

* The false teachers were saying that to be a child of Abraham, they had to be circumcised. See Rom.4:9-12.

B. Other OT Scriptures (3:10-14)

* Deut.27:26

- If one depends on the law, he must keep the WHOLE LAW, not just more of it than someone else. Since no one can keep it, it curses mankind

* Hab.2:4

- Habakkuk saw how bad things were in Judah, and God told him that things would get worse, and yet God said he would do a work that Habakkuk would not believe, even though he was told about it. Read Habakkuk 2:1-14; Two classes of people are contrasted, and the difference between the two is in whom that place their trust, one in himself, and "the righteous" in the Lord.

- This is the verse that God used to set Martin Luther free; The life of a medieval monk such as that of young Martin Luther was not easy and required enormous physical and mental sacrifice. They prayed eight times a day, slept little, performed painful penances and worked to support their brethren.

* Deut.21:23; Isa.53: 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

C. The Covenant of The Promise (3:15-18)

1. It was the promise of a "seed"

- Issac was a "type" of this seed (Miraculous conception; Mt Moriah sacrifice; Gen.22:2, 6-14.

2. It precedes the covenant of Law

- Gen.12:3b, 7; Gen.3:15

3. It had no mediator (Read 3:19b-20)

- See Gen.15:6-15, 17-20

- Romans 5:8-10

- It requires nothing from mankind except faith (John 3:16: Eph.2:8-9).

- Some have argued that if it does not depend on us, we can live however we want (Rom.6, Gal.5).

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW (3:19-24)

A.. Reveal The Sinfulness Of Mankind

* Romans 5: 13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command...

B. Keep Mankind From Depending On The Law For Righteousness.

C. Lead Mankind To Faith in Christ

IV. THE BEAUTY/BENEFITS OF THE PROMISE (3:25-4:7)

A. I Am An Heir Of God (We'll talk more about this next week)

* Note: 3:28 Some people use this verse to try and do away with gender distinctions. It has nothing to do with gender distinctions. God is saying that salvation is not determined by gender, race, or social status.

* I Cor.3:21...All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all are yours...

* Rom.8: 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...

* Eph.1: 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

B. I Am God's Child; He Is My "Daddy"

* Abba is the Hebrew word for "father," but it is more like our English word "daddy." It is a term of endearment. Chuck Smith says, "When I think of 'father,' I think of sitting straight at the table...with 'daddy,' you think of climbing up onto his lap, listening to stories, and getting hugs." Both words suggest something important, one being reverence and respect, the other love and affection. Now that we are children of God, He becomes the perfect parent.

* The Prodigal (Luke 15:11-32)

* A relationship based on love, not law

C. I am no longer under the supervision of The Law

1. The law regularly reminds me of my sin; the gospel regularly reminds me of my righteousness.

* Heb.10:1-14

2. The law continually condemns me; the gospel continually cleanses me.

* I John 1:9; Rom.7:21-8:4

3. The law arouses my flesh; the gospel encourages/frees my spirit

* Romans 7: 8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

4. The law is unmerciful; the gospel is full of mercy

* Illus: Paramedic verses Police

* Heb.4: 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.