

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of the Book of Galatians. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians Lesson

1-21-2018

1. Last week I taught in part Gal 5:4 and when the clock tolled 10:45 we were studying the *Doctrine of Grace*.
2. Before continuing the exegesis of Gal 5:4 I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may be necessary.
3. Here is an expanded translation of Gal 5:1-4.

Expanded Translation

Gal 5:1 Christ has made it possible for believers to enjoy a unique freedom in Christ and we must never again become involved in the exasperating bondage of the Mosaic Law.

Gal 5:2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, you will find yourself awash in a sea of doubt concerning whether Christ's death was enough.

Gal 5:3 I want to again make clear to each and every one of you who lets himself be circumcised; after your circumcision you became responsible for keeping the whole law, i.e., every jot and tittle set forth in the first five books of the Old Testament.

Gal 5:4 For you see you who are trying to attain justification by keeping the Mosaic law; Christ has discharged you, in fact you are fallen from grace and are now on your own traveling dangerously in enemy territory without a means of communication when you run into repeated attacks.

4. With Paul, declare yourself dead to self and alive in Him:

Gal: 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

Gal 2:21 I do not frustrate the Grace of God: for if righteousness came by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

5. Just as we are proud to be a part of America and that for which our Statue of Liberty stands, so also should we be proud of the cross and the grace and liberty for which it stands.

5.1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

5.2 Christ is become of no effect unto you who think you are justified by the law; you are the ones who have drifted off course from grace. For, brethren, you have been called unto liberty but use not liberty for an occasion of the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

6. Grace is all that God is free to do for you and for me on the basis of the cross; it is God's plan for mankind.

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by His Grace through and by means of the redemption which comes by being in Christ Jesus.

7. Let's talk a little more about grace and how it relates to us.

7.1 Because God was perfectly **propitiated** by the work of Christ, both the righteousness and justice of God are free to function for our benefit.

7.2 Just in case you are secretly harboring any doubts about how you became a member of God's forever family, take a look at Rom 4:4-5.

Rom 4:4 Now when a man works for his salvation, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.

Rom 4:5 on the other hand, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

7.3 But such grace doesn't stop with salvation; it follows you forever.

7.4 Because of the exculpatory work of Christ, no attribute of God's essence is compromised in blessing the believer.

7.5 The more doctrine you take into your soul, the more you understand grace, but the acquisition of this knowledge of grace comes at a price. You have to show up when Bible doctrine is taught.

7.6 Our salvation has been sealed. We are in Christ and members of God's forever family, but living the Christian life is a battle and must be fought according to God's rules and His protocol plan.

7.7 It was the genius of God that made us positionally perfect and acceptable to Him. It is the genius of Satan that causes us to doubt the power of Christ's death on the cross.

Rom 5:18 Therefore, as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

8. Grace didn't start with the cross; the tale of grace winds back in time before anything was!

8.1 God's grace was evident long before even the fall of man. Yes, even before the fall of Satan and the restoration, even before the first day in the life of Adam -- God's grace was there.

8.2 For God created everything perfect; His original creation was not without form and void says Isa 45:18.

Isa 45:18 For thus saith the Lord who created the heavens; God Himself Who formed the earth and made it; He established it, He did not create it without form and void. He formed it to be inhabited ...

8.3 Man was totally equipped for perfection after the completion of the restoration. Like the angels, however, he also had volition. He could love and obey God or he could hate and reject God.

Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; because He had out from grace completed the work.

Gen 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it; because He had provided everything mankind needed and His work was complete.”

8.4 The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was provided to test the volition of man.

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eatest thereof you will surely die.

8.5 Like Satan, man failed to pass the test of volition, and so the issue is now grace versus legalism.

Joh 3:18 He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

8.5.1 Man's intrusion into the grace plan of God is the enemy of grace.

Gal 4:4“But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law

Gal 4:5 To redeem them who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

8.5.2 A rejection of God's grace plan is called legalism, which in short is man's effort to gain God's approbation, especially by means of pretending to keep the Mosaic law.

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, cursed is everyone who continues not in all things which are written in the Book of the Law to do them.

Gal 3:11 But no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: the just shall live by faith.

Gal 3:12 And the law is not of faith: but the man who attempts to do the law he must live in it.”

8.6 After the Fall, only faith could save man and regain his spiritual life.

8.7 Subsequent to the Fall salvation came when Adam and Eve displayed positive volition toward God; they were asked to put on the animal skins, which they did.

Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins and clothe them.”

9. One of the major problems for believers is to sort out the difference between grace and legalism. Legalism comes in three categories:

- Salvation by works
- Spirituality by works
- Maturity by works

10. We must know the Scriptures if we are to distinguish grace from legalism.

Joh 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

1Pe 4:1 For as much then as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same Mind: for He that hath suffered in the flesh has put an end to the control and domination of the old sin nature.”

1Co 2:16 For who has known the Mind of the Lord that it might instruct him? But we have the Mind of Christ.”

Rom 12:2 Be you not conformed to this world but be you transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may know what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Phi 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

11. To know the mind of Christ is why we are here in time; the mind of Christ is the source of good works.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2Ti 3:17 In order that as God's goal and purpose the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

12. Talented believers often have a hard time with grace; they think their talent adds to their creditability before God.

Luk 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luk 18:19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

Luk 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

Luk 18:21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Luk 18:22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Luk 18:23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

12.1 Grace and legalism are mutually exclusive.

Jam 2:10 For whosoever tries to keep the law, and yet offends in one point, he is guilty of all.

13. Stages of Grace

13.1 Salvation

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 3:24 we have therefore been justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 16:31 And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, and your house.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on His Name."

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

13.2 Logistical Grace

13.2.1 This is that grace which keeps us alive in time and provides everything we need to permit the cycling of Bible doctrine in the soul. Such cycling glorifies God.

13.2.2 We are provided protection in the devil's world: food, clothing, shelter, transportation to Bible class, the Word, a pastor-teacher, oxygen for the brain, etc.

13.2.3 When positive to the Word we will receive doctrine. The Lord will feed us until we want no more.

Mat 5:6 Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

13.2.4 There can be no spiritual growth without doctrine, so God provides a day at a time for this purpose.

Jos 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth; but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do all that is written therein: for then God will make your way prosperous and you shall have a very successful life."

13.2.5 You will be blessed in time as you cycle Bible doctrine and develop capacity for blessing.

Luke 12:28 If then God so clothed the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will He cloth you ... but rather seek you the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you."

13.2.6 Even promotion, which the world attributes to hard work and talent, comes from the Lord.

Psa 75:6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south, but God is the judge,
Psa 75:7 he putteth down one and He sets up another."

13.3 Dying Grace

13.3.1 This is that time when we move from time to eternity, in the greatest of all possible happiness.

13.3.2 Our death is God's sovereign decision, and His timing is absolutely perfect.

Psa 68:19 Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior Who daily bears our burdens.
Psa 68:20 Our God is the God Who saves; from the sovereign Lord comes deliverance from death."

13.3.3 The sin unto death is reserved for the habitual “reversionist.”

13.3.4 Dying grace is only for the mature believer.

13.3.5 In God’s eyes, precious is the death of His saints.

Psa 33:18 Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy;

Psa 33:19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.”

13.3.6 Dying grace is the golden bridge from time to eternity.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith having not received the promises, but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

14. In summary, grace is God’s genius for dealing with man in order to provide all God has determined in His divine decrees after having seen the beginning and the end and all that transpired in the interim.

14.1 Grace is all that God is free to do for mankind on the basis of the cross without in any way compromising His character; it is God’s plan for mankind.

14.2 Without Christ there is no grace because He is the only object of faith capable of producing salvation and our justification.

15. Now let’s see how our verse looks by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Gal 5:4 For you see you who are trying to attain justification by keeping the Mosaic law; Christ has discharged you, in fact you are fallen from grace and are now on your own traveling dangerously in enemy territory without a means of communication or support.

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