

Galatians 5: 7-12 Only Christ Can Save Us 6/2/2024

REVIEW: Gal. 5: 1-5 Read

You are either in the "sphere" of grace or the "sphere" of legalism. You cannot be in both at the same time. They are mutually exclusive realities. Only Christ is the agent of salvation, not the law.

One cannot be trying to save himself by his own works to be right before God for eternity, and then, in the same breath, claim he is only trusting Christ for salvation. You cannot be inside two separate spheres (locations) at the same time. You either trust what Christ did for you, or you are trusting your own prideful efforts.

It is not "falling away" from a sphere of grace you are already in, but not even in the sphere of grace to begin with. **Romans 9: 30-33**

Should we not do good works and the good behaviors the Law talks about? Of course, but we do them because we are already saved, not to get saved or keep saved. **John 6: 28-29**

You cannot lose your salvation in Christ if you have truly and fully trusted Him with your life. His salvation is a gift; unearned and undeserved.

Dewitt- "Wait, I could give a gift back! Not this gift. Suppose I gave you a polio shot, and you stopped believing that a polio vaccination did any good. Could you give it back?"

You can allow yourself many pains and disappointments and temporal judgements, by being disobedient to God, after you become a Christian, (I Corinthians 3: 12-15/ 5:1-5), but cannot be lost again. If nothing in you reflects Christ, then it may be that you were never saved in the first place. That is my story.

But how frightening it would be to think my eternal destiny depends on my daily performance, with all of its ups and downs.

Today's Text: Galatians 5:6-12 *****

5:6 Circumcision had taken on magical proportions to the Judaizers by this time. No wonder they wanted to kill Paul. To say it had been eclipsed was unbelievable to them.

Philippians 3:2-9

5:7 "You were running well, who 'cut in on you? ' " Preventing you from obeying the truth? (From entering that sphere of grace)

(A word play here on the word “cut” that we will see again in v. 12)

5:8 It contradicts the work of Christ on our behalf, and all that He said.

5:9 Leaven is almost always used as a negative thing in the bible. (Exception Matthew 13: 33)

It means corruption or rot. It is small in size compared to the thing it leavens.

Unleavened= purity

Feast of Passover- Feast of unleavened bread – 15th-21 Nisan (Abib) after Passover on the 14th.

Something small that can destroy so much!

Ex. A 5- pound projectile can tear apart an F-15. 35,000,000 plane that weighs 45,000 loaded.

The plane tears itself up! But the action was started by 5 lbs.! All F-15s were grounded in November of 2007 because of the skins attachment to the frame, particularly the longeron (the lengthwise frame.)

5:10 Along with the 3rd class conditional “if” of v.2(meaning unlikely they would do it), we see Paul has confidence they have not adopted this false teaching.

5: 11 Seems unnecessary for Paul to even mention this. Maybe some got the idea that he was all for circumcising since he circumcised Timothy. But Timothy was half Jewish. To not circumcise him would mean Timothy rejected the revelation of God that lead up to Christ. He did not circumcise Titus(2:3) who was a Gentile, however. The constant persecution of Paul proves he believes you only need Christ to save you. Grace alone through faith alone.

5: 11b “**stumbling block**”? Greek- “ scandalon” “How could Jesus be the Savior when he was a convicted criminal? Besides, would it really take the Savior dying on the cross to save us? People are basically good, they just need a few adjustments and all would be right as rain. We just need to try harder and we could once and for all, be really good, all on our own with a few rules!” Scripture would contradict such statements. Romans 7:1-25, I Corinthians 1: 18-24, Romans 1: 16.

5:12 “Why don’t you “cut”(apokopsen) yourself!” (Remember verse 7 “who cut (enekopsen) in on you?”)