Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – June 23, 2019

The Transforming

Power of the Cross

*Galatians: How the Gospel Sets Us Free*

Made Right To Do Right

Galatians 2:15-21

When Gentiles were being saved and given the Spirit, many Jewish teachers argued that now that they were saved by Jesus, they needed to follow Jesus in keeping the Law of Moses. Wasn’t He circumcised? Didn’t He keep kosher? Didn’t He attend the feasts?

Still others wondered how Jesus’ death alone could make someone right with God. They knew, perhaps, that Jesus’ death was relevant, but surely keeping the Torah’s commands helped make us right with God.

They would say, “Too much grace is the problem. If you tell people they are forgiven, they will go wild! If they don’t have laws to obey, they won’t do right. Forgiveness is not free; you must earn it.

They didn’t grasp that the Cross changed everything, for Jesus AND His followers. Jesus’ death FOR sinners also was His death WITH sinners. His death FOR sin was also His death TO sin. And because we were “in Him,” we are now dead to sin and the Law that condemned us, but alive with His life which gives power to do what the Law could not.

Here is how Paul is reasoning, explaining his rebuke of Peter’s hypocrisy:

*“Even though we Jews have been given the Law, and see ourselves apart from the Gentile nations who don’t, we have trusted in Jesus to be made right with God, since the Law can never justify anyone.” vv. 15, 16*

*“But if seeking to be made right with God through Jesus lets us become lawless sinners, that would mean that Jesus is an enabler of sin! Absurd! In fact, if that’s what I was intending, I’d be sinning in undermining all I’ve done to point people away from the Law to Christ.” vv. 17, 18*

*“No, here’s how it works: The Law, God’s Law, rightly judges me and gives the sentence of death. I’m a dead man walking. But because my faith has identified me with Jesus (who died in my place), I too am dead to the Law and the sin that it judged, and have new life, the very life of God. So in a sense, I died with Him, as if we were crucified together.” vv 19, 20a*

*“So the (new) life I’m now living is fully by faith in Jesus (because of the faithfulness of Jesus), who loved me and gave Himself to make all of this possible. My new life is the very life of Jesus, God’s eternal life!” 20b*

*“And even more, to go back to the Law for Life or lifestyle would despise grace and say that Jesus died for nothing. We dare not do that.” v. 21*

Freedom Principle #4:The Good News of Jesus Christ frees

us by uniting us with Jesus in death and new life.

***Applying the Principle: What does death/life with Jesus imply?***

**We owe everything to Jesus and His Cross-Work for us, which. . .**

*Signals a radical break with sin as a principle.*

*We are saved from the guilt of sin because Jesus paid the price. 2 Cor. 5:21*

*Pictures a fresh beginning apart from law-keeping.*

*We no longer look to the Law of Moses for primary instruction. Romans 7:4-6*

*Assures power for living righteously through God’s very life.*

*We are given the strength and resolve to oppose sin. Romans 6:1-4*

*Means that God’s grace is given freely by faith, not works.*

*We are justified AND sanctified by faith, not works of the Law. Eph. 2:8-10*

*Means that works of love will follow true faith.*

*Grace promotes and fosters holiness, not lawlessness. Galatians 5:22-24*

*Means that our motive to do right is love for God, not fear.*

*We are now beloved children of God, not slaves. Romans 8:14-17*