Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – August 18, 2019

The Transforming

Power of the Cross

*Galatians: How the Gospel Sets Us Free*

The Bottom Line of Law vs. Grace

 “In summary. . .”

 Galatians 6:11-18

 Nearing the end of this passionate letter, Paul takes the pen from his scribe, and writes the last few lines himself, in bold, big letters. In one last try, he again lays out his case in a few simple sentences. He has gone from surprise to outrage to compassion and now is back to outrage.

 He actually summarizes the key elements of his argument, including the motive of the Law-teachers, the impossibility of the Law, our only true ground for boasting, and the identity of the true people of God.

Let’s see how Paul wraps it all up. . .

How important is this? Read between the large lines! v. 11

What drives the false teachers? Not devotion to God! vv. 12, 13

 It is about coercion and rules, not a free will to obey God.

 It is about outward displays, not inner piety which loves God.

 It is about others wanting credit for your “conversion” to the Law.

 It is about others not wanting to be persecuted for the Cross.

 It is about others’ hypocrisy, since they themselves don’t keep the Law.

What’s it really all about? New life through the Cross! vv. 14-18

 Jesus’ cross means He died for my sin.

 My cross means I died to my sin.

 Jesus’ death brings about the New Creation, which already has begun.

 True peace comes only to those who are God’s spiritual people, and that has nothing to do with ritual or ethnicity.

 Our confession will be validated as we identify with Jesus’ suffering. The “marks of Jesus” are upon a true disciple.

 As we follow Him, we will find and give grace.

Freedom Principle #12:The Good News of Jesus Christ frees

us by strengthening us to hold firmly to grace, even in persecution, and embrace the Cross as the one means to righteousness.

***Applying the Principle: What have we learned about law vs. grace?***

*1. The grace of God often is rejected in favor of a works righteousness. Man wants to take some credit for salvation. Am I trusting in my own works or in the work of Jesus for me? Ephesians 2:8-10*

*2. While the Law was given by God, it was meant to magnify sin, not forgive it, and as a temporary measure until Messiah came. Gal. 3:19*

 *Are you a slave to tradition and ritual commandments?*

*3. All of the “Jewishness” of the Law, that which separated the Jews outwardly from the Gentiles, has been done away. Do I realize. . .*

 *Sabbath keeping is obsolete; we worship on the first day of the week.*

 *Circumcision as a covenant sign is over. Galatians 5:6*

 *Kosher laws are dead; Jesus said ALL food is clean. Mark 7:18, 19*

 *The sacrificial system is gone; Jesus was God’s perfect Lamb. Jn. 1:29*

 *The priesthood has changed: Every believer is a priest! 1 Peter 2:5, 9*

 *The temple is demolished; we are God’s Temple. 1 Cor. 3:16, 17*

*4. All of the moral law applied before and after Sinai, is still in effect and is fulfilled in the Law of love for neighbor and God. Romans 13:8-10 Is my life ruled by love or rules? Am I following Jesus joyfully or just hoping God does not punish me for my sin?*

 *5. Constant vigilance is required to protect the faith from those who want to place God’s people back under the Law. Galatians 2:4, 5, 14*

 *Am I clear about the Gospel, and can I explain it to someone else who has never heard of God’s offer of forgiveness in Jesus?*