Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – July 28, 2019

The Transforming Power of the Cross

*Galatians: How the Gospel Sets Us Free*

Stand Firm!

“It is for freedom Christ has set us free!”

Galatians 5:1-12

Teachers from Jerusalem had come to Asia Minor to undermine Paul’s church planting efforts by persuading the Galatians that they should now begin keeping the Law. But why would anyone think this was a good idea?

First, fallen human nature wants some of the credit for salvation.

Second, the Law had been in force for fourteen hundred years, and many were confused about why it no longer was in force.

Third, it was presented as a “logical” step, since Jesus Himself had kept the Law and taught people to obey it.

Finally, the Law was being presented as a “go along with Jesus” addition, implying that more was required to be accepted by God.

Paul has explained that. . .

✔ Jesus’ death was completely sufficient to pay for our sins.

✔ The “Jewish laws” no longer applied because all are now one in Christ.

✔ We died to the Law when we died with Christ.

✔ To “go back” to the Law is like a free man selling himself into slavery.

Here he goes even deeper, showing that ***to rely upon the Law, beginning with circumcision, is to miss salvation altogether. Trusting anything besides Jesus is to refuse His grace and devalue His sacrifice.***

Key Premise: Jesus came to set you free; therefore, NEVER, EVER suggest that you should be enslaved to the Law. v. 1 WHY?

1. Because to choose law over grace is a choice not to identify with Jesus in His death for sinners. You are choosing self-righteousness. v. 2

2. Because you can’t pick which laws to obey. If you go through the gate of circumcision (the signature of Jewishness), you are pledging yourself to perform ALL of the Law, which is impossible. v. 3

3. Because to choose Law over Grace, is to choose works over faith. v. 4

4. Because in turning away from Jesus, you are abandoning the hope of His righteousness which comes by faith through God’s Spirit. v. 5

5. Because you are returning to the division of Jew vs. Gentile, abandoning the works of love (through the New Covenant). v. 6

6. Because if you continue this path, it means you bring in an element foreign to the Gospel of grace, a crucial, evil element. vv. 7-9

However, things are different if you hold fast to your freedom in Christ:

1. By standing firm, as I know you will, your enemies will be defeated and judged, not yourselves. v. 10

2. By standing firm, you will validate my willingness to be persecuted for preaching Jesus alone as opposed to works of the Law. v. 11

3. By standing firm you will join me in considering this “cutting” of no value, and in fact, a very dangerous proposition. v. 12

Freedom Principle #9:The Good News of Jesus Christ frees

us by ushering us into all of the New Covenant’s blessings and closing the door against self-righteousness.

***Applying the Principle:***

*Do you understand that the Gospel, the good news about Jesus, is that He died on behalf of sinners, fully bearing their sin?* 2 Cor. 5:17-21

*Have you renounced your own righteousness for that of Jesus?* Phil. 3:7-11