

Lesson 5

Aug 9, 2009

SAN TAN HEIGHTS CHURCH SBC

CHURCH AT THE KITCHEN TABLE
GALATIANS 5:1-12
LEGALISM ALWAYS LOSSES, LIBERTY
ALWAYS WINS

STHC-2009

Read these twelve power packed verses that Paul penned for the Galatia Church.

As you read and seek an understanding of the Scripture, think about performance based Christianity Vs faith based Christianity.

Ask yourself and those who are with you if they can earn God's blessing.

This is the question that was before Paul as he ministered to the Church. His audience was self-righteous, and quick to judge.

I want you to understand three truths from this account of Scripture to the Galatians:

1. Losses of Legalism:
2. Strategy of a Legalist:
3. Discussion from Paul Against Legalism:

6 Losses of Legalism:

1. Legalism limits rather than releases God's work in our life: I want to share a statement that I heard years ago that helped me to understand this concept.

RULES WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP EQUALS REBELLION.

This statement is true with your family, as well as with your Heavenly Father.

Take time to grasp and unpack this statement by discussing with each other what it means and how it impacts you personally.

When we conform to any legalistic standard, or set of rules, then Christ is of no benefit to us.

While Paul was teaching in Galatia, the Jewish standard was to be circumcised. The Jewish leaders were expecting the Gentiles to be circumcised in order to have assurance of salvation.

You have heard this before, like when someone says you have to be a member of a church to be saved. Or when they tell you that you must be baptized to be saved, or speak in tongues to be saved. Remember this (GRACE IS FAITH PLUS NOTHING) Anytime we add our personal steps or rules to faith in Christ, we make the same mistake as Paul's listeners.

Ask yourself; do rules and steps bind you for your salvation?

Here is Paul's point, whenever Christianity becomes a set of rules rather than a relationship with Jesus Christ; we focus then more on external acts then on Christ who is Lord of our life.

2. Legalism makes you and I become surface Christians:

3. We loose the aid of the Holy Spirit in living the Christian life: Gal 5:2

Paul is describing to the Galatians that they were in danger of relying on their own efforts, their own strength to live the Christian life.

This is Satan's lie to you and your family that you can live in your own strength. Wrong
Read Ephesians 3:20 to your family.

4. Legalism causes us to allow the entire legalistic system into our life: 5:3

Paul is essentially teaching that if you allow one law, you accept all the law into your life. Read Gal 3:10 then James 2:10-11. So in order to keep the law you must keep all the law and no one has ever been able to do this apart from Christ in the 66 Books of the Bible. So Christ died for us to receive grace.



5. Legalism causes us to deprive ourselves from daily grace for living: 5:4

Was Paul stating that we could lose our salvation? Absolutely not. Paul is saying that the believer that goes back and attempts to live a performance based Christianity has become an unaffected Christian. I pray that this is not us today, I pray that when you look at the Cross you still get tears, I pray that in your devotion time to God you still have that compassion and are stirred up with God's love for you.

Read 5:6, then Ephesians 2:10. This is what Christianity is all about, faith working for love.

6. Legalism will slow down our Spiritual growth: 5:7

Who or what is tripping you up?

Who or what is cutting in on you?

If you have access to the Internet, look up Robert Robinson. 1735-1790. He composed "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" If you are able to read his story you will see a man that started well and on fire for God but then was tripped up and cut in by someone. He had his stride broken and lost his swagger. He then met someone who brought him back into the presence of Grace, not performance, and he got his swagger back.

Strategy of a Legalist: 5:7-10

- Legalist always desire to trip someone up: 5:7
- Legalist persuade us to believe a lie: 5:8
- Legalist attempt to infect the whole church: 5:9

Legalist bring trouble into your life: 5:10

Read 1 Peter 4:10 together and I challenge you to memorize this Scripture.

Christians who use their gifts are ministers of a new covenant, which means that ministry is not merely the keeping of regulations, but rather the experience of Spiritual power.

This is my prayer for us as a unified body that seeks God and His power.

I love you all,

Pastor Billy

