

WRITE IT DOWN!

Where does the freedom of faith in Christ lead?

Getting Grace: Studies in Galatians

Galatians 5:1-12

Sunday, July 6, 2008

LISTEN UP!

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I. The Deadly Dangers of Religion

1. Religion renders Christ of no benefit. (5:2)
2. Religion obligates us to perfect obedience to God's law. (5:3)
3. Religion cuts us off from Christ and God's grace. (5:4)
4. Religion is not obeying the truth. (5:7)
5. Religion is not from God. (5:8)
6. Religion spreads like leaven. (5:9)
7. Religion exposes us to God's judgment. (5:10)
8. Religion abolishes the stumbling block of the cross. (5:11)

II. The Delightful Direction of the Gospel

1. **Upward:** Faith in the Gospel frees us to wait expectantly for righteousness (5:5)
2. **Outward:** Faith in the Gospel frees us to love others (5:6)

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Galatians 5:1-12 again. Who is the “you” in this text? Who is the “them and those” in this text? Who is the “we” in this text?
2. What is the specific “religion” that Paul is confronting in the Galatian churches? In this passage what is the command of the Mosaic law that the Galatians are being urged to obey in order to have a right relationship with God?
3. Why is Galatians 5:4 so troublesome and problematic? What do we do with this verse?
4. In Galatians 5:5, *through what* do we wait? *By what* do we wait? *For what* do we wait?
5. In Galatians 5:6, is Paul saying that love of others saves us? What is he saying?
6. What is Paul saying in 5:12? How do we explain these harsh words?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and/or most challenging for you in the text/message this week?
2. Have you been feeling the tension that was expressed in the message: So what does the freedom of faith look like? What does the Christian life look like?
3. What is the definition of religion? What is the operating principle of religion? Name some religions.
4. What is the difference between religion and the Gospel? How does religion produce a slavish relationship with God? How does the Gospel produce a sonship relationship with God?
5. Why is the cross a stumbling block to religious people and how does religion, when it replaces the Gospel, abolish that stumbling block?
6. Think about a person you know that is living a religious life. What is their life like? Do you think that most non-believers in the world today know that the Gospel is not religion? Why do you think that is?

Sermon Stuff for Young People

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INTENDED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 3 and up . . .

1. According to Galatians 5:2, who is writing this letter to the Galatians?
2. In Galatians 5:5 what are we Christians waiting for? "Through what" do we wait? "By what" do we wait?
3. In Galatians 5:6 what is the fruit or evidence of faith?
4. Draw a picture of "faith working through love."

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INTENDED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 7 AND UP, FOR USE WITH THE ADULT OUTLINE . . .

1. What does religion (trying to get a right relationship with God by what we do and how we live) obligate us to, according to Galatians 5:3?
2. In what verses is faith mentioned in this text?
3. In Galatians 5:9, what is religion compared to? What is the point that Paul is making?
4. Name some religions that you know.

