

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

For the past 12 weeks, we have been studying the book of Galatians.

And Paul, being led by the Holy Spirit, has been very emphatic in his letter regarding one thing - it is by grace.

Every one of us in this room this morning, we are here by the grace of God.

For those of us that are saved and have a relationship with Jesus Christ, we are saved by the grace of God.

For anyone that has yet to make that decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior – (our loved ones, our neighbors) it is only by the grace of God that they are still alive. Because He loves us all and wants a relationship with all of us and would do anything for us – even giving His own life for us – and that is exactly what He did.

We are saved by the grace of God

We live by the grace of God

We extend love to others by the grace of God

And church, it is a sobering thought for us to really think where we would be or what we would be doing this morning – if it had not been for the grace of God.

And one of the things that Paul has pointed out for us over the last few weeks is that grace is not extended to us by following a list of do's and don'ts.

It is not extended to us through religious activity.

It is extended to us through a relationship of love.

And that is the most important thing church.

God doesn't want religion – religion is man's doing.

God wants a relationship.

And this is why Paul has written this letter to the churches in the region of Galatia – they had abandoned grace for religion.

In our study this morning, as we finish the book of Galatians, Paul will continue to provide us with examples of what grace in action looks like.

We already saw a few examples last week – restoring one another and sharing in the burden of others – Paul will provide a few more for us.

Let's pray...

[Gal 6:6-18 NKJV] 6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. 11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! 12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these [would] compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy [be] upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. 18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with your spirit. Amen.

I heard a story of a couple that had been married for 20 years – their marriage was a loveless marriage from the beginning.

They lived in the same house – yet, there was no love.

Because there was no love, one day the husband provided a list for his wife – it was a list that she had to follow in order for there to be peace in the house.

The list included the time she had to wake up.

The time she went to bed

The time that meals were prepared

The list of acceptable meals

And also a cleaning schedule for her

And periodically, he would ask her – did you do this? Or did you do that? Why didn't this get done today – after all, it is on the schedule.

The wife was miserable because the list was such an extensive list and she also knew that she could not keep it.

Time went by and the husband dies.

And after a period of time, the wife finds another man, they fall in love and they get married.

This home was full of love –

They enjoyed their time together and loved one another.

One day, they are cleaning the house and the wife comes across that old list – sitting in the corner of a drawer – it was the list that the previous husband had given to her –

the one that she had to follow for there to be peace in the house. And she remembered how miserable she was trying to follow the list. She hated that list.

But then she realized that all those points on the list, she was actually doing with her new husband. In fact, she was actually doing more than what was on that old list now –

However, this time, she was doing it out of love.

This is the same for us church,

Many of us can relate to the wife in the story –

Some of us came from a background of legalism, trying to relate to God by following a list.

But when we release ourselves to the love of Jesus Christ, we find that we actually do more than what was ever on that list.

It is a byproduct of love – not legalism.

Let's examine our text -

[Gal 6:6 NKJV] 6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

Last week, Paul had told the church that we should bear in one another's burdens.

But, Paul in this verse specifically addresses the need to provide for the temporal needs of our teachers in Christ.

The verse is teaching that it's appropriate to support those who teach, it's appropriate for pastors to earn an income from their ministry.

Paul is addressing the responsibilities of both the teacher and the ones that are being taught.

Turn with me to 2 Timothy 4,

Timothy was Paul's understudy and listen to what Paul tells him here in verse 2

[2Ti 4:2 NKJV] 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

The responsibility of the pastor-teacher is not to entertain or to use gimmicks to attract people to watch the performance –

He is called to teach the truths of scripture – to expound on the word of God. why? Because that is what people need to hear.

The responsibility of the one who is being taught is to learn what is being taught but also to support those that are teaching.

And I believe that the reason that Paul includes this exhortation in his letter is because this is something that the churches in Galatia were not doing.

They were not supporting those that were teaching the truth – the ones that Paul had set in place when he left the region. They couldn't dedicate themselves to studying the word of God and the church is no longer fed sound doctrine.

This then opened the door to false teachers, these Judaizers, that came in and started to preach legalism.

One of the things I must stress is that this support is not to be viewed as a payment for a task that has been completed.

It is a support for those individuals that they may be set free from other requirements in order that they may fulfill their calling.

It is a sharing in their burdens.

By caring for the needs of the teacher, the church says, "We want the Word of God taught faithfully and effectively, so we will help support you."

It is done because we love the word of God and we want to see it spread to the ends of the world.

[Gal 6:7-8 NKJV] 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

I asked you to make a note of the word deceived – because the meaning behind the word that is used here is to lead astray – or to lead aside from the right way.

And there are three ways that we can be deceived.

1. We can be deceived by Satan – just like Eve was in the Garden of Eden.
2. We can be deceived by false teachers – just like the churches in Galatia were.
3. And probably the most common one – we can be deceived by ourselves.

[Pro 16:2 NKJV] 2 All the ways of a man [are] pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits.

There are many Christians who sow to the flesh every day and then wonder why they do not reap holiness and victory and blessing.

They have convinced themselves that they are sowing to the Spirit when all along, they have been sowing to the flesh.

And Paul has a warning for them. God is not mocked – in other words, your sin will find you out.

At the beginning of the chapter, Paul spoke about the necessity to restore our brothers and sisters who have fallen gently – if we fail to do that, it is evidence that we have failed to sow in the Spirit.

If we fail in bearing in one another's burdens – that is pride.

Where does pride come from? From sowing in the flesh.

Not only can we deceive ourselves into thinking that we are sowing something we are not.

We can also deceive ourselves by expecting much when we sow so little.

But again, we cannot fool God and the results of our poor sowing will be made evident.

[Gal 6:9 NKJV] 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

There's an old fable that says the Devil once held a garage sale and offered all the tools of his trade to anyone who would pay their price.

They were spread out on the table and each one labeled.

Hatred, malice, envy, despair, sickness, sensuality – these are all the weapons that everyone knows so well.

But off to one side lay a harmless looking wood-shaped instrument marked "discouragement."

It was old and worn looking but it was priced far above all the rest.

When asked the reason why, the Devil replied, "Because I can use this one so much more easily than the others."

No one knows that it belongs to me, so with it I can open doors that are tightly bolted against the others. Once I get inside I can use any tool that suits me best."

Many times in ministry, one of the greatest obstacles is not persecution or adversity but discouragement.

And this is the case when one does not see results immediately.

You keep sharing the gospel to your loved one and you don't see a response – after a few tries we tend to say – forget it!

Paul says here, keep sowing.

Continue loving one another

Keep rejecting false teachers

Keep bearing one another's burden's

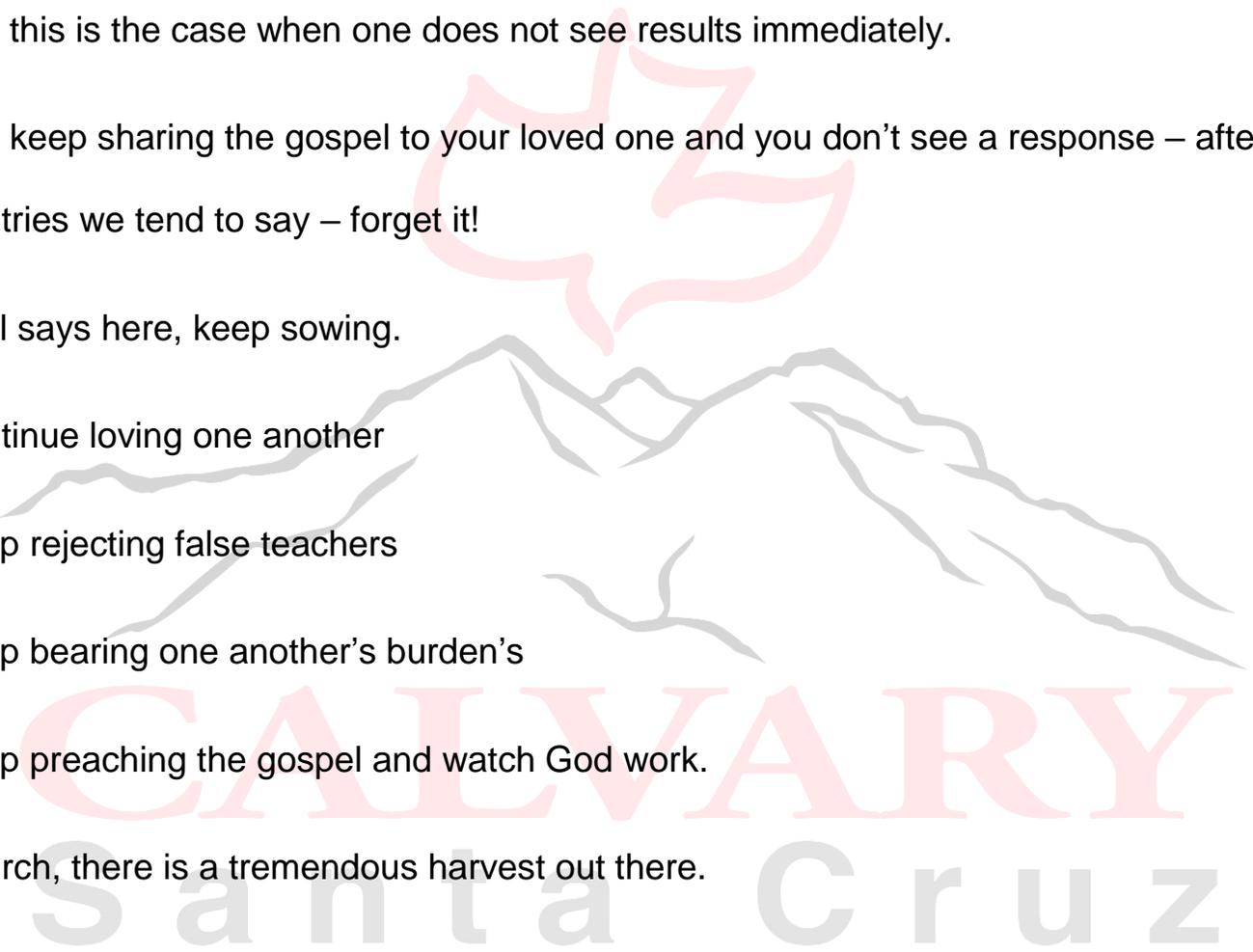
Keep preaching the gospel and watch God work.

Church, there is a tremendous harvest out there.

We reap what we sow, even though it may take a few years before we see fruit – but we must remember that it is well worth it.

When will that harvest take place?

In due season – we need to remember that fruit is seasonal.



[Psa 1:1-3 NKJV] 1 Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

If we keep at it, at the right time, when God has deemed it, we will see results.

We need to just be patient and receive in God's own time.

[Gal 6:10 NKJV] 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Without losing heart, we are to seek to do good with all the resources that God has bestowed upon us.

And we are to do good to all – notice how Paul uses the word us – he is including himself in the exhortation – he is not singling out the churches in Galatia.

And special emphasis is placed on those within the church.

We are to look for ways to bless those in the household of faith.

This is the life in the Spirit – this is the life that Jesus Christ lived and He gives us the Spirit to live out these responsibilities.

[Gal 6:11-12 NKJV] 11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! 12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these [would] compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

As Paul's letter is coming to a close – he decides to do a recap to remind the churches in Galatia what's at stake.

And I asked you to make a note in verse 11, where Paul writes about how he is using large letters –

Some people think that this points to Paul having a vision problem – some have stated that this might have been his thorn in the flesh.

I believe that this refers back to the importance of what is described.

The nature of salvation – the Judaizers claimed that it came from their works – Paul said it came from God's work on the cross.

And Paul begins by reminding them of the motives of the Judaizers.

These Judaizers were putting the burden of legalism on the churches in Galatia because it was going to be a good showing for them – it was all about them satisfying their fleshly nature.

Now, I had you make a note of the word compel – because,

Compel is an important word.

There was nothing wrong with a Gentile being circumcised.

However, there was everything wrong in compelling a Gentile to be circumcised, saying he could not be right with God without coming under the law of Moses.

[Gal 6:13 NKJV] 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

The false teachers were motivated by self interest and their own agenda.

They were hypocrites – as they didn't keep the law. Paul had already told us at the start of Galatians that it was impossible to keep the entire law –

They were braggers – they boasted in the flesh. They boasted on their own religious works.

We have a choice church, either we glory in the flesh or we glory in Christ.

Paul makes it very clear that there is only one acceptable form of boast –

Turn with me to 1 Cor 1,

I am going to read it from the NLT

[1Co 1:30-31 NLT] 30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure

and holy, and he freed us from sin. 31 Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."

[Gal 6:14-15 NKJV] 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

What is Paul saying here regarding boasting in the cross -

Boasting in the cross implies that we place our confidence in Christ and His work for our salvation.

We are not trusting in our religious acts.

Those that boast in the cross rest everything on what Jesus has done.

Those that boast in the cross believe that Jesus lived the life that we could not live and died the death that we should have died.

It implies that God accepts us because of the work of Christ.

It implies that the wrath of God will not be poured on you and me because of the work on the cross.

Those that boast in the cross are a new creation and every spiritual blessing we enjoy or will enjoy is because of the cross.

The cross has done for us what the flesh cannot do.

We can undergo all sorts of spiritual rituals, but none of it matters if we have not become a new creation in Christ.

What does a new creation look like?

It is a person who is united to Jesus Christ – a person who is never the same person once he or she has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

You see Christianity is not about being a nice person, trying harder or just being religious.

It is about being a new person and that is only possible by the cross.

[Gal 6:16-18 NKJV] 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy [be] upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. 18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with your spirit. Amen.

Church, Peace and mercy come from trusting Jesus.

It's when we learn to lay aside the burden of the Law, and the feeling that we have to measure up to God's standards in order to please Him, it is then - that we finally experience peace and mercy.

When we finally give up trying to please God on our own, and realize that we can only please God by trusting in Jesus' payment for us on the cross, then the peace comes.

The truth is, without Jesus we can NEVER be pleasing to God.

It's only what Jesus has done FOR US that can please God.

Paul ends the letter with the appropriate word - grace.

Grace is what God has done for us, what God has given to us, even though we didn't deserve it.

The Galatians had been duped into thinking that God was pleased if they became circumcised, and tried to do good works.

But in the end, all that really counts is grace.

All that really counts is what God has done for us, not what we can do for him.

When we learn to trust in that, we have peace and mercy.

Amen.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

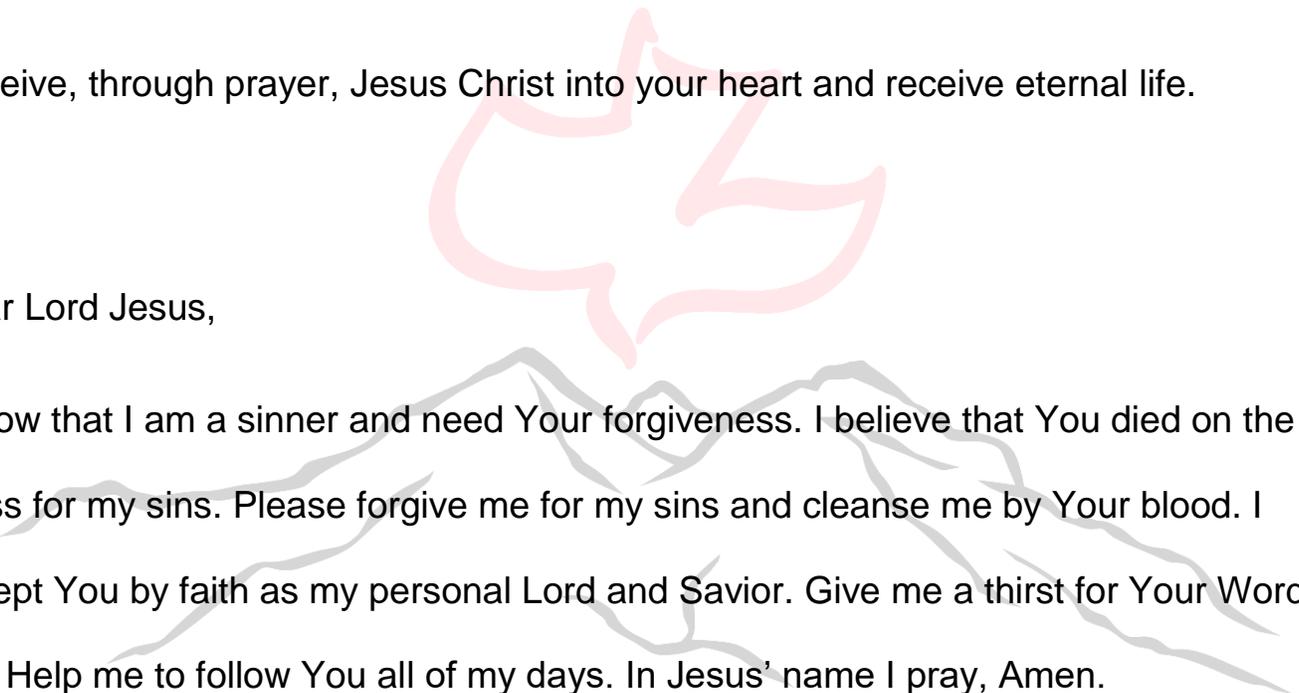
Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



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