

## 12. The Book of Galatians 3:5-9 (Topical)

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### ***Liberty From Law-Part 11***

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier  
(3-10-24)

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Find this weeks' sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

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We are studying the Book of Galatians here at Calvary on Sunday mornings—going through the book topically based on its main theme which is the liberty that is ours in Christ.

The book divides itself into 3 main areas of liberty that Paul brings up in this epistle—

- I. **Liberty from Lies**—verses 1:6-10
- II. **Liberty from Law**— verses 1:11-4:31
- III. **Liberty for Life**— verses 5:1-6:15

In our study we have entered into the second major section—“**Liberty from Law**”—which is really liberty from *religion and legalism* as a way of being made righteous in God's eyes.

- II. **Liberty from Law**—verses 1:11-4:31
  - A. **The testimony of Paul**— verses 1:11-2:10
  - B. **The transgression of Peter**— verses 2:11-21
  - C. **The treachery of false prophets**— verses 3:1-4
  - D. **The truth of The Gospel**— verses 3:5-9

Everywhere Paul took the truth of the gospel he was confronted with the lies of the devil—and 2000 years later nothing has changed. Only the true gospel can bring new life in Christ—a false gospel, no matter how sincerely it is believed and embraced cannot save anyone.

The Lord has commissioned us to go into all the world preaching the gospel to the lost—which is why we must know the *true* gospel so we can share it accurately with those we come in contact with! This is why we have set aside a few weeks to study what the true gospel is all about and how to share it with others.

#### 1. **There is a day of judgment coming**

As we have already said, this isn't really a part of the gospel itself—it is more the introduction, the *motivation* to get people moving in the direction of *salvation*. Too many Christians today present the gospel, not as a warning urging people to receive Jesus as a Savior Who will save them from the fires of hell—but as a *'self-improvement program'* that will make their lives better and more comfortable here on earth.

**Jesus talked about hell more than anyone else—  
because He didn't want anyone to go there!**

**2. Repentance**

The Greek word for **repentance** is *metanoia* which literally means—“to have a change of mind”—but a change of mind that leads to a change of direction or action.

**No one can be saved who isn't willing and wanting to have the course of their life changed from rebellion against God to obedience toward God—**

Jesus said, “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish... I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3, 5)

**3. Jesus Christ is Almighty God—Lord of all**

One of the essential doctrines that a person must believe if they're going to be forgiven of their sins and allowed entrance into heaven is that Jesus is—Almighty God in human form—the Great I AM!

**Exodus 3:13-14 (NLT2)**

<sup>13</sup> But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?” <sup>14</sup> God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.”

**John 1:1–3, 14 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 8:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”

You'll notice that the word “**He**” in verse 24 is in italics, which means it's not there in the Greek but was added by the translators in an effort to help clarify what Jesus was saying—only here it doesn't help to *clarify*, it only serves to cloud and confuse what Jesus is saying about Himself!

What Jesus really said was, “**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins** [go to hell]...**if you do not believe that I am** [‘Jehovah God’]—**you will die in your sins.**”

This goes ‘*hand in hand*’ with another biblical proclamation concerning Jesus Christ—that He is not only Almighty God in human form, the Great I AM—but that He is also the Lord of all!

**Acts 10:36 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup> “The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--**He is Lord of all--**

**Romans 10:9 (AMP)**

<sup>9</sup> Because if you acknowledge *and* confess with your lips that **Jesus is Lord** and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Salvation is inextricably linked to the doctrine that Jesus Christ is God Almighty *and* Lord of all!

The reason these go '*hand in hand*' is because—as God He *created* all things, and therefore He has the right to *control* all things as sovereign Lord (Master) of His creation!

**Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

**You can't separate His divinity from His sovereignty because they are inextricably linked together to Who He is as God!** Jesus is God (that's who He is)—but salvation only comes to those who *believe* He is God and then *receive* Him as the God and Master (Lord) of their lives—

**John 1:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

Believing in Jesus is essential if a person is going to be saved—but receiving Him as your Lord is where you make the commitment to Him that actually saves you! Folks, this is where faith as mere head-knowledge—becomes saving faith (a heart commitment)!

It's important for the people we are witnessing to that they understand that to be saved they have to believe in Jesus Christ as Almighty God—that's vital.

But what we must also make sure they understand is that—***not all faith is saving faith!***

I was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, and I believed everything back then that I believe about Jesus now—and yet, back then I wasn't saved—WHY? Why wasn't I saved back then, if simply believing the facts about Jesus Christ was all that was necessary to be saved and get into heaven as some teach?

In his epistle, James tells us that even the devil and his demons believe that Jesus Christ is God Almighty, the Great I AM in human form—but that's not going to keep them from hell.

Saving faith is not just believing the facts about Jesus Christ (Who He is and what He did)—to be saved a person must believe to the point of commitment.

When you were dating your future spouse and decided to get married—you didn't enter into marriage until you made vows to each other on your wedding day—those vows were the commitment you were making to one another.

It was the commitment that put you into the marriage covenant and allowed you to become one with each other in the eyes of God—and the same was true with your relationship with Jesus *before* you were saved.

Many of you (like me) grew up believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God—and maybe you even loved Him having grown up in church like I did. But it wasn't until you made a commitment to Him by receiving Him into your heart as your Savior, pledging to love and obey Him that you entered into the 'New Covenant' (which is

really a marriage covenant) with Him. It's the *commitment* that brings you into the marriage covenant with Jesus making you one with Him and saving you because—only perfect people can get into heaven and the only way you can be perfect in God's eyes is to be 'in Christ.'

When it comes to Jesus being '**Lord of all**'—it means that He is Lord over all the people of this world—whether they realize it or not! As such, every person who has ever lived will at some point bow the knee to Jesus confessing Him as Lord.

**Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

However, only those who bow the knee to Jesus as Lord over their life here on earth are saved. The rest *will* bow the knee and confess that He is Lord on the Day of Judgment—but then it will be too late to save them!

In the Old Testament, when you see the word "**LORD**" (all capitals) it is the name of God ('Yahweh') the Great "I AM." But when you see the word "**Lord**" it is the translation of the Hebrew word 'adoni'—which means '**master**' or '*the one who controls your life.*'

The problem with so many professing Christians today is that—they use the word '**Lord**' as a *name* for Jesus when it is really a *title* for the One who controls their life.

**His name is *Jesus*—His title is Lord—the Master of your life.**

Those who *call* Jesus Lord but don't *submit* to Him and obey Him as their Master are deceiving themselves—

**Luke 6:46 (NKJV)**

<sup>46</sup> "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

From there He goes on to talk about 2 kinds of faith found among professing Christians (churchgoers)—head knowledge that produces no obedience to Him, and then saving faith rooted in the heart demonstrated by obedience to His word.

Listen, no one can be saved who doesn't call Jesus Lord—and no one can call Jesus Lord who has not relinquished control of their life to Him as their Master.

The true gospel is all about telling people that they must believe in and bow the knee in submission to the Lord Jesus Christ—without which no man or woman can be saved!

1. **There is a day of judgment coming**
2. **Repentance**
3. **Jesus Christ is Almighty God—Lord of all**
4. **Jesus Christ Died for Their Sins**

When you present the gospel to people, you need to make sure that they understand (from God's Word) that—being "good" (whatever that means) won't get them into heaven.

### Proverbs 20:6a (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Most men will proclaim each his own goodness...

Jesus said that there is only one Person who is “good” (morally perfect) and that is God! (Matthew 19:17) That is why Jesus *had* to die on the cross for our sins—because we *weren’t* ‘good’—we weren’t and never would be in our own strength, good deeds, and religious observances.

We are fallen sinners, condemned to spend eternity in hell—and the only way we could escape that judgment was if God *redeemed* us (to buy out of slavery by paying a price)—

### 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Under the old sacrificial system, God mandated that He would only accept the innocent dying for the guilty (an animal without spot or blemish)—and as such under the Mosaic covenant the blood of the animal would *atone* for their sin.

The word ‘**atonement**’ in the Hebrew is *kapher* and means ‘*a covering*’.

For the Jewish people to have fellowship with God their sins would have to be atoned for (covered)—and God made it clear that being ‘good’, keeping commandments, and offering God religious rituals and ceremonies wasn’t going to do it—it would take a blood sacrifice:

### Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.'

But even then, the blood of animals would only *temporarily* cover their sin—until the next time they sinned and had to bring another animal to atone for their sin once again.

Of course, this looked forward to the sinless, perfect, Lamb of God (the Lord Jesus Christ) Who would die in our place, and Whose death would—forever take all our sins away! (John 1:29)

When we share the gospel with people today, since everyone thinks they’re a ‘good’ person (“*not perfect, but certainly good enough to get into heaven!*”)—we must communicate to them, that if our good deeds and religious works could atone for our sins—then Jesus would not have had to die but since He did He therefore died in vain—Galatians 2:21b!

Of course, this goes hand in hand with the last piece of the gospel message—

## 5. Jesus Christ Rose from the Dead

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single greatest event in the history of the world—and the cornerstone of the Christian faith. It is so foundational to Christianity that anyone who denies the physical, bodily resurrection of Christ cannot be a genuine Christian—it is an essential doctrine of the Christian faith for salvation.

**You see, without the resurrection there is no Christian faith, no salvation—and no hope for man.**

As Paul the Apostle said,

*"If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is useless, your faith is meaningless, we are still in our sins, those who have died believing in Christ are lost and we are of all men the most pathetic. We might as well eat, drink, and be merry for there is nothing more to life than this."*

However, Paul went on to say:

*"But now Christ is risen from the dead and is the first fruits from the grave of those who have died believing in Jesus."*

The truth of the resurrection was first proclaimed to the women who came to the tomb that Sunday morning to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. Jesus died on the cross at 3 o' clock in the afternoon (on Thursday) and by the time the four Roman executioners (required by Roman law) had certified He was officially dead, and His body was removed from the cross—the sun was starting to set.

Jewish law mandated that a dead body had to be buried by sundown—so Joseph of Arimathea (one of Jesus' disciples) asked Pilate for Jesus' body, quickly wrapped it in burial cloths and put it into his own never used tomb.

The women purposed that they would come back early Sunday morning (after the Sabbath) to finish properly preparing Jesus' body with the spices in the windings of the grave clothes. The gospels tell us that the women were worried that Sunday morning, as they made their way to the tomb, about the stone that had been rolled over the opening of the tomb (weighing between three and four thousand pounds).

They had no idea how they would ever be able to roll it out of the way so they could enter the tomb and finish preparing the body of Jesus for burial. Yet when they got there, they saw the stone had already been moved from the opening and looking inside they saw an angel who said to them,

*"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:5-6)*

At this point let me quote from one well-known Bible apologist on the subject of Jesus' resurrection—he said and I'm quoting him:

*"All but 4 of the major world religions are based on philosophical and ethical principles.*

*Of the 4 that are based on personalities only Christianity claims an empty tomb due to the resurrection of its founder.*

- 1. Abraham, the father of Judaism died about 1900 BC, but the Jews never claimed he rose from the dead.*
- 2. The original accounts of Buddha's life and death never claimed any resurrection from the dead for him.*
- 3. Mohammed died on June 8, 632 AD at the age of 61 in Medina where his tomb is visited each year by thousands of devout Muslims—but neither the Koran nor the Hadith ever claimed that Mohammed rose from the dead.*

*Their bodies (bones) are still in their graves because, only the tomb of Jesus is empty—only Jesus is risen!"*

## **6. The Invitation**

After you've given the gospel *presentation*—it's time for the invitation.

Ask the person you're witnessing to if they would like to receive Jesus as their Savior.

*"I like to let them go home and think about it."*

Well, that's what D.L. Moody used to like to do also—and that's what he did after preaching the gospel to a large crowd one night.

The date was October 8, 1871—the night of the great Chicago fire. (Listen for the remainder of this story.)

When the Bible says, "**Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation**" (2 Corinthians 6:2)—that's as much for the person *giving* the gospel as it is for the one *hearing* the gospel.

Author and commentator, William Barclay relates the following story to illustrate the danger of spiritual procrastination:

*"There is a fable which tells of three apprentice demons who were coming to this earth to finish their apprenticeship. They were talking to Satan, the chief of the demons, about their plans to tempt and to ruin men.*

*The first said, "I will tell them that there is no God." Satan said, "That will not delude many, for they know that there is a God."*

*The second said, "I will tell men that there is no hell." Satan answered, "You will deceive no one that way; men know even now that there is a hell for sin."*

*The third said, "I will tell men that there is no hurry—they have time." "Go," said Satan, "You will ruin men by the thousands."*

The most dangerous of all delusions is that there is plenty of time to get serious about God so there's no need to hurry!

However, that isn't what the Bible teaches that—*"Tomorrow isn't promised to anyone."*

God's Word admonishes unbelievers not to put off receiving Jesus when the gospel is presented to them—

*"**Today**, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..." (Hebrews 3:7-8); "...behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)*

May God give us a burden for the lost, and a great sense of urgency to reach them with the gospel—but that we would give them the true gospel!

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If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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