

JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING

A TEACHING SERIES IN GALATIANS

Unity

Galatians 2:1-10

5/7/2023

THE VERDICT: YOU ARE WELCOME!

- External appearances and actions have to do with our _____.
Internal faith and belief have to do with our _____.
Hebrews 9:9-10
- Jesus is the one who makes us _____.

THE OUTCOME: FREEDOM

The gospel gives you freedom, and the do-it-yourself-salvation only leads you to slavery.

1. The gospel leads to _____ freedom.
2. The gospel leads to _____ freedom.
 - Christians are not free from God's moral law as a way to _____, we are free from it as a system of _____.

THE MARKS OF REAL UNITY

1. Christian unity means _____ anyone and everyone who is in Christ Jesus.
2. Christian unity means recognizing that we have different _____.
3. Christian unity means that we should "continue to remember the _____."
Acts 20:35

THE LIMITS OF UNITY

- Fellowship with Christ is _____ the basis we need for fellowship with one another. We must never exclude someone whom God has included in his family. But equally, fellowship with Christ is the _____ basis for fellowship with one another. Churches must not maintain unity at the expense of the gospel.

Galatians 2:1-10

Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ²I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. ³Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. ⁵We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

⁶As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message. ⁷On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. ⁸For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

United in Care for the Poor

- Jesus proves to John the Baptist that He is the Christ by pointing out that he heals bodies and preaches to the poor (*Matthew 11:1-6*).
- The prophets said he would do this (*Isaiah 11:1-4, 61:1-2*).
- Jesus teaches that anyone who has been truly touched by the grace of a merciful God will be help the needy (*Luke 6:35-36, Matthew 5:43-48*).
- God will judge whether or not we have authentic faith in us by the way we have served the poor, the refugee, the sick, the prisoner (*Matt. 25:44-46*).
- Jesus became a man, in his incarnation, he "moved in" with the poor (*Luke 2:24, 2 Corinthians 8:9*).
- Jesus lived, ate, and associated with the lowest class of society. And he called this "mercy" (*Matthew 9:13*).
- The Bible demands that we model our actions after Jesus (*2 Cor. 8:8-15*).
- Christians are to open their hands to the needy as far as there is need (*1 John 3:16-17; Deut. 15:7-8*), and within the church, wealth is to be shared very generously between rich and poor (*2 Cor. 8:13-15, Lev. 25*).
- Echoing the prophets, the apostles teach that true faith will inevitably show itself through deeds of mercy (*James 2:1-23*).
- Materialism is in fact a grievous sin (*James 5:1-6, 1 Tim. 6:17-19*).
- Paul's final words to the Ephesian church leaders urge them to care for the poor (*Acts 20:27-35*).

Adapted from Tim Keller's "Generous Justice"