



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: God Is Not Impressed

Passage: Galatians 2:1-10

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: We naturally want people to be impressed with us, and sometimes we approach God the same way. But our acceptance with God does not depend on our reputation, religious background, or accomplishments. It rests entirely upon what Jesus Christ has done for us. When it comes to your standing before God, what are you trusting in?

I. God Is Not Impressed by _____ You Are (Verse 6)

Our name, position, education, or reputation may impress people, but none of those things gives us an advantage with God. He does not measure our worth by outward distinctions.

"And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." (Matthew 3:9)

There is a tremendous difference between having a Christian background and having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You cannot inherit salvation from your parents.

You do not have to become somebody impressive enough for God to want you. The gospel is not an invitation for impressive people. It is an invitation for sinners.



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II. God Is Not Impressed by What You Have _____

(Verses 3–5)

Titus had trusted Christ, but some believed he needed to keep the Jewish law as well. Paul refused to let anyone add a religious work to what Jesus Christ had already done.

Baptism, church membership, giving, and serving are important, but none of them can save us. There is a world of difference between doing something because we have been saved and doing something in order to be saved.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
(Romans 3:23)

God does not compare us with other people. We may have lived a cleaner life or made better choices, but the glory of God is the standard, and all of us have come short.

The gospel does not begin with what I have done for God. It is the good news of what God has done for me.

III. God Is Completely Satisfied with What _____ Has Done (Verses 5, 9)

If our acceptance with God depended on who we are, we would never be important enough. If it depended on what we have done, we would never be good enough. Our hope rests entirely in Jesus Christ.

Our confidence before God is not in our past or our religious accomplishments. It is in Christ, who died for our sins and rose again. We are saved by grace, and we have nothing to add.

Salvation is free to us because Jesus paid for it. He bore our sins on the cross and rose again.



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"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

When Jesus said, "It is finished," He did not mean He had done His part and we must do ours. His sacrifice was complete. Our good deeds cannot add anything to Calvary.

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." (John 19:30)

The person who grew up in church and the person saved out of a terrible life both come to God the same way. None of us has anything to boast about. We are saved by His grace.

Conclusion: Jesus told of a Pharisee who trusted in his religious accomplishments and a publican who recognized his need for mercy. One man believed he had something to offer; the other knew he had nothing to offer. Jesus said the publican went home justified.

"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Luke 18:13–14)

You cannot earn God's acceptance. Jesus Christ has already done what was necessary. If you have never trusted Him, come to Him for mercy.

Why should God accept you? Not because you deserve Him, but because you have placed your trust in Christ and Christ alone.

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