

Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

He Gave Me His A+ (Galatians 4:4-7)

Sermon Outline

Introduction - Who Can Live in the World Where God Lives?

1. God's Perfect Standard
2. Our Sinful Shortcoming
3. God's Gracious Solution
4. Our Faithful Response

Scripture References

- Genesis 2:17 - "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
- Galatians 3:10 - "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.'"
- Matthew 5:48 - "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."
- Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- Romans 6:23a - "For the wages of sin is death."
- 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9 - "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord..."
- Romans 5:19 - "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
- John 1:12-13 - "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Reflection Questions

- What do we realize about ourselves in light of God's perfect law? (Psalm 19:12)
- Many people seem to think that sin is only a matter of doing wrong. How does James 4:17 correct that mistake?
- Does the good news of Jesus mean that God gives us 2nd chances to be righteous, or something greater? (Phil 3:9)
- Did Jesus speak of His obedience to God's law as arbitrary and impersonal, or personal and relational? (c.f. John 8:29)
- Is the good news of Christ *fair*? Is it *just*? (c.f. Rom 3:26)
- How does Christ's giving us His perfect righteousness help settle our uncertainty about whether we have "done enough" to satisfy God?
- "If Jesus make me right with God, I don't need to worry about pursuing holiness." How does our union with Christ answer this statement? (c.f. Gal 2:20; Romans 6)