

“Are you an obedient believer or “believer” who is deceived?”

Galatians 5:13-15 October 18, 2020

Galatians Series- Living the Gospel in the Power of the Spirit

Context- The gospel that Paul preached was received directly from Jesus. Anyone, including an angel from heaven, that contradicted the gospel of grace through faith in Jesus was to be eternally condemned. The Galatians, by their own personal experience, had come to faith and received the Holy Spirit through God’s grace without following the law first.

Therefore, the rest of their spiritual life should be lived by faith and the Holy Spirit and not be rooted in OT law keeping. Paul now moves on to prove this by showing the background of God’s covenant with Abraham prior to Moses. The Law came after God’s promise to Moses and was to last **until** Jesus arrived. Everyone who expresses faith have become heirs of God’s original promise. Paul moves from biblical and logical argument to personal friendship based on integrity and mutual love. We are reminded again that we are not under the law which is a form of slavery. We are **free** children, like Isaac, through the Spirit. If you seek to trust in the law, you are cut off from Christ and salvation. We need to be aware of those that seek to hinder us from trusting in the grace of the cross. Obedience is the natural fruit of faith in the gospel of grace.

Background Texts: Matt 7:21-27; John 14:15-21; **1 John 3:4-10**; 5:16-18; Luke 6:46; James 2:19-20; **1 Cor 6:9-10**; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:3-8; Rom 6:1-11

LESSON 1- The gospel frees us to live in OBEDIENCE AND LOVE

- A. Obedience to God and love for others are the hallmarks of FREEDOM (Gal 5:13- Our culture has a misunderstanding of freedom)
- B. Obedience to God and gospel freedom is not a license to SIN (Gal 5:13- see background texts above for serious warnings of deception)
- C. Obedience to God is fulfilled in serving others through LOVE (Gal 5:14-15- This is love as defined in Scripture- Eph 4:15; Heb 12:5-7)

Theological Application:

1. *God gives us a new heart (nature) to be free FROM our old sinful slavery. The new nature makes us free TO serve Him and others with new power and desires!*
2. *There is a risk that we become deceived and not truly repent and live for the new purpose as slaves of God. Jesus said, “MANY” will say to me on that day...*
3. *Today is the day to repent and make a firm commitment to put aside the sins that easily ensnare us (Hebrews 12:1-4) and show ourselves genuine believers.*

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciple