

WRITE IT DOWN!

Is Abandoning the Law a Sin?

Getting Grace: A Study in Galatians

Galatians 2:17-21

Sunday, March 30, 2008

LISTEN UP!

Are You Finishing By The Flesh

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I. The Implicit ACCUSATION (2:17)

If being justified by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone really means abandoning the Law, then you're sinning, and, more than that, Christ is leading you to sin!

II. The Impassioned REFUTATION (2:18-19, 21)

1. The Law was never meant to be a means of justification. Rather, the purpose of the Law was: a.) to expose our sin and b.) to drive us to faith in Christ.
2. Abandoning the Law is not a sin, because the old categories of sin are redefined with the coming of Christ. For the Christian, the Law has served its purpose and has been fulfilled by Christ.
3. To "rebuild" the Law as a means of justification, is now the ultimate sin, because doing so nullifies the grace of God and the death of Christ.
4. The Law cannot save us, it can only slay us and we must be slain to really find life in God through the cross of Christ.

III. The Incredible DECLARATION (2:20)

1. *I have been crucified with Christ . . .*
The sinning and self-justifying "I" has been crucified with Christ.
2. *it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me ; . . .*
The Resurrected Jesus now lives in me . . .
3. *the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*
I live every part of my daily life by faith in Jesus, joyfully and gratefully grounded in and motivated by His love and sacrifice.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Reread Galatians 2:10-21. Explain, in your own words what is happening in this text? Who are the players? What are the issues?
2. In 2:17, Why did those who oppose Paul say that justification by faith alone in Christ alone made Jesus a servant or facilitator of sin?
3. In 2:18, when Paul speaks of destroying and rebuilding something, what is he talking about? Why does rebuilding this thing really make him a transgressor?
4. What do we learn about the law from each of these other Galatians passages. . . 3:11-12, 19-25? Make a list!
5. Explain why Paul's incredible DECLARATION in 2:20 is both mysterious and practical? How is it practical to your daily life?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in the text/message this week and why?
2. What are some of the "laws" that we and others are prone to build as a means of justification and a measure of spirituality? For you personally, have there been "laws" in your life, either from your upbringing or your Christian experience, that you've used to justify yourself and measure your own spirituality? How do we break free from the this bondage?
3. How does life look different if we're not continually trying to justify ourselves to God, others and ourselves?
4. Galatians 2:20 is about "living the Gospel." What difference does Galatians 2:20 make in a hard marriage? In a crummy job you hate? In a relationship with a rebellious child? As you face cancer? As you look toward retirement? As you manage your money? As you _____ (fill in your current circumstances!)

Spring Growth Groups start this week! Its not too late to enroll today in at the courtyard!

Sermon Stuff for Young People

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INTENDED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 3 – 7

1. What does the Bible teach we are saved by? Circle the right answer.
 1. by what we do, by our own good works
 2. by faith in what Jesus has done for us
2. Was the Old Testament Law ever meant or able to save us?
3. What is Jesus called in Galatians 2:20? What 2 things does the verse say He has done for us?
4. Draw a picture of Jesus on the cross and put yourself in the picture somewhere. Where does Galatians 2:20 say you should be in the picture?

Sermon Stuff for Young People

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INTENDED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 7 – 15, FOR USE WITH THE ADULT OUTLINE

1. What does it mean to be “justified”?
2. If the law was never intended to be a way to be justified, what are the 2 purposes of the law?
 - 1.
 - 2.
3. In 2:17, what is Paul’s response to the question, “Is Christ a minister (a contributor or facilitator) of sin?”
4. What is Paul talking about when speaks of destroying and rebuilding in Galatians 2:18?
5. Who was crucified with Christ in Galatians 2:20? What does that mean?
6. According to Galatians 2:20, how does it think ground us and help us as we live by faith in Jesus?

