

Date: April 6, 2010

Reading: Galatians 1-2

It is vitally important to hear the truth and obey it. One of the dilemmas we all face is to determine what truth IS. A lot of our religious neighbors believe that truth is relative or that sincerity in belief or practice will “make up for” not having the truth.

Paul identifies for us how we can determine what the truth is (1:6-12):

- 1) There is not a multiplicity of gospels. Remember the essential nature of the gospel – it is God’s power to save (Romans 1:16). Even though others preach “different gospels”, their perverted gospel is of no benefit to save.
- 2) Anyone who will preach another gospel receives the “disfavor of God.” This is such an important point that it is repeated for emphasis. (verses 9 and 10)
- 3) The message of an angel or an apostle is not to be received when it contradicts the gospel of Christ. It doesn’t matter if the angel is Gabriel or Moroni; God’s messengers do not bring contradictory messages. Messages contrary to the gospel of Christ are error and must be rejected.
- 4) The gospel that saves is the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is not a message from of man, though men were the instruments to record it in written form (1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

Beware of imitations and perversions of the gospel of Christ!

Tim

Date: October, 22nd, 2009

Today's reading: Galatians 1-3

Today's reading has a main point of being saved by faith and not being saved by keeping the Old Law. This would apply to all law if we think we can be saved because we are "good enough" and "careful enough" in doing what the scriptures say. Now don't misunderstand me or Paul. He is not saying we do not need to be careful to follow the scriptures but what he is saying is that we



cannot earn our salvation. In fact he starts out the letter to the Galatians by warning them of false gospels. He even repeats a warning that if he (Paul) or even an angel from heaven preaches a different gospel than what he has already preached to them, that person should be accursed or lost without Christ. We should not consider that person as being one of Christ's flock. Sounds to me like we need to be VERY careful about what we believe, practice and teach.

See if you can find in this reading where Paul implies that our faith will cause us to obey and not to live in sin.

We all have sinned and we all will sin and the only way to rid ourselves of that guilt and the spiritual consequences of that sin (spiritual death) is the blood of Jesus Christ through our faith in Him. Gal 2:16

At the end of chapter 3 Paul points out a very simple fact about faith in Christ and then makes a statement that is part of the gospel that Paul had and is preaching to the Galatians but that most preachers today reject. Can you find it and once you have found it think about what Paul said about those who preach "another" gospel. WOW!

As a side note, if you are feeling inferior to anyone (or treating anyone as inferior) read the last 2 verses of chapter 3.

God has blessed us with so much.

David Williams

Date: April 7, 2010

Reading: Galatians 3-4

Are you a child of God? Our reading today highlights what is involved in making us God's children as well as the significance of that relationship.

It can be readily concluded that we do not become God's children through perfect adherence to law. The Galatians had not received the Spirit through the works of the law (3:2). One seeking to be justified by perfect law-keeping must understand that if he doesn't keep all the law he is cursed (3:10). Perfect adherence is what is required for life in a law system (3:12).

We are saved by faith (3:2,5) as was Abraham (3:6), and we are sons of Abraham through faith (3:7). We are blessed with believing Abraham through faith (3:9). If we are to be just, we must live by faith (3:11).

Why is it possible for us to live under a system of grace? Jesus is the reason! He redeemed us from the curse of the law (3:13). He provides the blessing of Abraham to all, including Gentiles (3:14). He is the means by which the promises to Abraham are fulfilled (3:16). The Law of Moses pointed out that all have sinned (3:21-22). It pointed the way to Jesus (3:23-24). What is required of us to be sons of God is faith in Jesus (3:26) which culminates in being baptized into Christ to put on Christ (3:27). This makes us Christ's possession and Abraham's seed, blessed by God's promise (3:28-29).

What a blessing to be a child of God and an heir of God through Christ (4:6)!

Tim

Date: October, 23rd, 2009

Today's reading: Galatians 4-6

When we plant our garden (somewhere in my distant past I remember planting a garden) we select seeds from plants that we would like to grow in our garden. If we plant tomatoes we are not expecting ragweed to come up instead. Since we were young we have all understood the concept of what we sow we will reap but sometimes we think this law does not apply to our actions in this life. Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says it does in the 6th chapter of Galatians. He then tells us how to sow in such a way that we can reap eternal life! This is not your standard variety of seed to be purchased at the home & garden store but is the good works prompted by our faith in Jesus.

Later in chapter 6 in verse 14 Paul puts these works into perspective saying "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

Are we sowing to the Spirit? Are we only boasting in our Lord Jesus Christ?

My God bless you in your reading.

David Williams



Date: April 8, 2010

Reading: Galatians 5-6

Are you a spiritual person? Paul provides some signs of spirituality in our text:

- 1) We will walk in (or according to the dictates of) the Spirit (3:16,25). The way that we do this is to be led by the Spirit (5:18). There are many ideas in the religious world regarding what it means to be led by the Spirit, most of which talk about some mysterious voice or guidance. We are led by the Spirit when we follow the mind of Christ revealed by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:15-16).
- 2) We possess the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (5:22-23). Spiritual people seek the best for others (love), have true joy in their hearts, are at peace with God, are willing to bear with injustices against themselves, are kind, good, faithful (trustworthy), have a quiet resolve and strength, and are in control of themselves. This is in stark contrast to the works of the flesh.
- 3) A spiritual person will restore a brother when he is in sin. His approach will be gentle and introspective, realizing that he could be tempted as well. Humility is a hallmark of the spiritual person. (6:1-5)
- 4) The spiritual person sows to the Spirit and not to the flesh. His emphasis is not this world and its possessions or concerns, but rather the things of God. He shows this concern by continuing steadfastly in doing good to all men, especially those of the household of faith. (6:7-10).

Let's seek to be spiritual in our walk! May God bless us in this!

Tim