

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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September 19 – Galatians 5:1-12

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ² Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. ³ And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. ⁴ You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to be* justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

⁷ You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. ¹¹ And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. ¹² I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

This is very powerful because Paul here tells us that Christ has made us free from the bondage of the law and now it's our responsibility to stand fast or to remain in the grace of Christ that saves us and not go back to trying to become justified by keeping the law. Remember, many of the new born again believers that were in the church at Galatia were actually Jews that had been taught all of their lives that they needed to keep the law of Moses but now they had received Christ and he has become their Savior apart from the law. They had entered into a place of grace by faith in Christ for salvation and Jesus Christ was the total and only salvation package that they needed apart from the law. This is why Paul encourages them to stand fast in this new relationship with God by faith in Jesus Christ and not go back to trying to do it themselves through keeping the law to attain righteousness.

Paul says that a little leaven will leaven in the whole lump. This means that it was not right to mix faith in Jesus Christ with self-effort trying to keep the law to be made righteous. Now it was either Christ or nothing! He told them you ran well or another words you began your Christian walk by faith in Christ the right way and were born again by the Holy Spirit so you can't go back now and begin trying to be saved by keeping the law! This is what separates Christianity from all the other religions in the world. Our God has provided the free gift of salvation for us that we by sending his Son Jesus Christ who paid the price for our sins and we do not need to offer up sacrifices to add to what Christ did for us or try to do anything to please God to be acceptable to him except receive by faith his love and kindness to us through faith in Christ.

I will never forget the analogy of being fully redeemed by the story of a friend inviting another friend to a restaurant telling him the entire meal was paid for. However, once they finished this wonderful meal together the person invited said oh let me get the tip but the person who invited them says no when I invited you out to dinner and told you that I was going to pay that meant that I was going to pay for everything including the tip and you do not need to add anything to the bill. When we try to add something to the gift of salvation it's like saying; Jesus thank you for purchasing our salvation but now let me add some more to it to make sure that I'm saved. How ridiculous is that!

Friends, let's just allow the Lord to pay for our salvation and let's not try to add anything to it because he paid the entire bill on the cross with his own blood and that is sufficient and enough to save all of us and we can never add anything to it because only his Jesus sacrifice is the complete sacrifice that God accepts and none of our works can earn our salvation. Isaiah 64:4 says it this way; But we are all like an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* like **filthy rags**; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

Titus 3:4-7 says it this way; But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Some try to do all kinds of good works hoping that in the end their good works will out-weigh their sins but that is a total deception because we're all sinners in need of a Savior.

WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Once we have said yes to Jesus Christ we need to make a firm commitment to abide in his grace and stand fast in the free gift of salvation we have received.
- 2) If a person tries to justify themselves by their own self effort trying to keep the laws of God they're going to be a very frustrated Christian and they are not abiding by faith in the grace of God.
- 3) Both the Old and New Testament teach us that all our attempts to justify ourselves by our own works are like filthy rags and we can't be saved by doing works of righteousness because we all fall short of Christ's perfection which alone forgives and regenerates sinners.
- 4) If you are tempted to try to add to your salvation just remember what Jesus said on the cross: "***It is finished***" and his holy death in our place is enough to save us!

PRAYER TO APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES

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