

Galatians

Theme: Stand Firm in the Liberty of the Gospel of Grace!

Key Verse: “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (5:12)

Outline:

- I. Stand Firm because of the Authority of the Gospel of Grace (1:1-2:21)
 - A. The Basis of its Authority (1:1-5)
 - 1. the apostle of grace (1-2a) {Paul’s Apostolic Authority}
 - 2. the author of grace (2b-5) {God of grace, peace and glory}
 - B. The Application of its Authority (1:6-9)
 - 1. The defectors from grace addressed (6)
 - 2. The troublers of the saints identified (7)
 - 3. The perverters of the gospel denounced (8-9)
 - C. The Defense of its Authority (1:10-2:14) {Personal Historical Survey}
 - 1. Paul’s motivation in defending it (1:10)
 - 2. Paul’s reception of it by revelation from Christ (1:11-12)
 - a. Negative statement (11-12a)
 - b. Positive statement (12b)
 - 3. Paul’s recollection of his former conduct in relation to it (13-14)
 - a. His persecution of the church (13)
 - b. His advancement in the Jewish religion (14)
 - 4. Paul’s conversion by the grace of Christ (15-17)
 - a. His supernatural salvation by grace (15-16a)
 - b. His independent instruction in the gospel (16b-17)
 - 5. Paul’s relation with the other apostles (18-20)
 - a. His contact with the apostles was limited as to time (18)
 - b. His contact with the apostles was limited as to number (19)
 - c. His contact with the apostles is affirmed by an oath (20)
 - 6. Paul’s association with the Judean churches (21-24)
 - a. His departure from the Judean churches (21-22)
 - b. His reputation among the Judean churches (23-24)
 - 7. Paul’s recognition by the pillar apostles (2:1-10)
 - a. Their affirmation of Paul’s Gospel (1-5) [its principles & practice]
 - b. Their perception of Paul’s apostleship (6-9a) [its purpose & power]
 - c. Their cooperation in apostolic ministry (9b-10) [to Jews and Gentiles]
 - 8. Paul’s contention for Christian liberty (2:11-21)
 - a. His rebuke of Peter’s and Barnabas’ hypocrisy (11-14)
 - b. His defense of justification by faith (15-21)
 - (1) Jews and Gentiles are justified by faith in Christ apart from the Law. (15-16)
 - (2) Believers died to the Law and live to God through their union with Christ in his death and resurrection. (17-20)

- (3) Those who attempt to return to legal righteousness frustrate the grace of God and empty the cross of Christ of its power. (21)

- II. Stand Firm because of the Proof of the Gospel of Grace (3:1-4:7)
 - A. The Proof of the Indwelling Spirit (3:1-14) {We receive the Holy Spirit by faith apart from the law.}
 1. The argument from the presence of the Spirit by faith. (1-5)
 - a. The reception of the Spirit (1-4)
 - b. The ministration of gifts of the Spirit (5)
 2. The argument from the promise of the Spirit by faith (6-14)
 - a. Gentiles participate in the blessing on Abraham by faith (6-9)
 - b. The works of the law only bring a curse (10-12)
 - c. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law (13)
 - d. Gentiles share in the promise of the Spirit by faith (14)
 - B. The Proof from God's Covenantal Promise to Abraham (3:15-25) {We are heirs of the promise by faith apart from the law.}
 1. The exposition of God's covenant with Abraham (3:15-18)
 - a. The terms of the covenant are unchangeable (15)
 - b. The recipient of the covenant is Christ, the ultimate seed of Abraham (16)
 - c. The law does not invalidate or modify the covenant (17-18)
 2. The exposition of the law (3:19-25)
 - a. Its temporary function (19-20)
 - b. Its continuing purpose (21-25)
 - C. The Proof of Sonship (3:26-4:7) {We are sons of God by faith apart from the law.}
 1. Our union with Christ by faith (3:26-29)
 2. Our present adoption as sons (4:1-5)
 3. Our inheritance guaranteed by the Spirit (5:6-7)

- III. Stand Firm because of the Persecution of the Gospel of Grace (4:8-5:12)
 - A. The zealous pursuit of the Galatians (8-20)
 - B. The allegory of Isaac and Ishmael (9-5:1)
 - C. The call to stand fast in the liberty of Grace (5:2-12)

- IV. Stand Firm in the Responsibilities of the Gospel of Grace (5:13-6:18)
 - A. Fulfill the law of love (5:13-15) (the standard for grace-filled living)
 - B. Walk in the Spirit (5:16-26) (the principle for grace-filled living)
 1. The promise of liberty in the Spirit (16-18)
 2. The catalog of the works of the flesh (19-21)
 3. The evidence of the fruit of the Spirit (22-26)
 - C. Fulfill your duties toward one another (6:1-10) (the practice of grace-filled living)
 1. The duty to restore a sinning brother (6:1)
 2. The responsibility to bear burdens (6:2-5)
 3. The duty toward teachers of the word (6:6)
 4. The duty of persevering in good works (6:7-10) [Law of sowing and reaping]

- V. Conclusion (6:11-18)

- A. Verification of the epistle's authenticity (11)
- B. Contrast with the antagonists' motivation (12-15)
- C. Condition for the believer's blessing: Boasting in the cross of Christ (16)
- D. Evidence of the apostle's credibility (17)
- E. Petition for the believer's blessing: Abiding in the grace of Christ (18)