

Galatians Handout
Week Thirteen

We are saved by grace alone, through _____ alone in _____ alone.

did you receive the Spirit (get saved) by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Answer: _____ Well then, we contribute faith, right?

Eph. 2:8 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that (faith) not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Are we supposed to follow the rules, put in some effort?

Mat. 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Hebrews 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

2 Pt. 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful

Phil. 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

Gal. 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Two similar words of vs. 2 and 3.

Two words that serve as contrasts to the Spirit

Saved by _____. Perfected by _____

Why obey, why good works then? How do we work without working?

Grace isn't opposed to effort, it's opposed to

Here's the pushback—

Rom. 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

What's different?

Rom. 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Col. 3:3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

2 Cor. 5:12 We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls/compels us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Ezek. 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

We will have to b/c we will want to so much it will seem unnatural for us not to follow Jesus, to want to be like Him.

How do we know whether we are doing works of the flesh or works of the Spirit? Can a Christian do works of the flesh? Can an unbeliever do works of the Spirit? What are works of the flesh?

Works of the flesh:

-Plain ol' sins

Gal. 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality....

- Anything and everything unbeliever does no matter how decent, b/c they are not of the Spirit.

Rom. 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit...the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Danger/Deception

- Anything we/believers do in our own strength, for our own glory or for the wrong reason.

Sanctification isn't marked, necessarily by how far you've come but on what you are relying on to get there—you and your flesh or God and His Spirit.

Jn.5:30 Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

Jn. 14: 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

-Works of the Spirit are the overflow of the love we've received, not anything required.

It is a work directed by God's word, relying on God's power, for the purpose of God's glory.

Let's test our understanding...

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *for good works*, which God *prepared beforehand* so that we would walk in them.

Reframing how we think of sanctification and good works.

Eph. 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that *in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

*The making alive, the raising and seating and even the good works are His gift to us, not the other way around. He is proving His work in our lives to us and the world. It's a have to and a want to because it is in our new born again nature. To think otherwise is straying from the gospel of grace and utter foolishness.

People are difficult. Serving is hard.

Heb. 12:1 And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Heart check.

--Acknowledge your weakness apart from the Holy Spirit. And acknowledge God as the source of everything you need going forward.

Rom. 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

Jn. 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.

--Pray for help.

Heb. 4:16 Let's therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace for help in time of need.

Sometimes we lose touch with grace and need to find it again right where it has always been.

Ps. 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

--Trust

Ps. 143:8 Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I entrust my life.

Ps. 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him and He will do this:

--Act

Col. 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

--Give Thanks

Ps. 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him.

This has always been God's plan.

Zech. 4:6 This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

Jer. 17:5 Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Isa. 40:31 But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

God will always remind us.

2 Cor. 1:8 We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On Him we have set our hope.

Pop quiz

Mat. 6:33 But (continually) seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Quick review

1. Who has bewitched you? 2. How are we saved? 3. How are we perfected/completed, flesh or Spirit?

Question #4

4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

Suffer what?

Suffer in vain? Acts 14:22 Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Question #5

5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Who is “He who provides”

Jn. 14:25 “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things....

Lk. 24:49 And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

Jn. 15:26 When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me....

Two things to mark

-The trinity

-The mark

Key words—

The problem of ongoing sin/slow growth/not seeing miracles...

You have to fight to give up.

Discussion

Why does Paul start with personal experience first and not scripture?

Why does he use both?

Do they need to line up? What happens when they don't?

How do you resolve any differences?