

FREEDOM

(For FREEDOM Christ has set us free! Gal 5:1)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, Sept 19/20, 2015

Ray Davis

Galatians 2:1-10 "Unity of the Gospel"

There is no greater feeling on earth than being FREE! And nothing will make you FREE like the Gospel. And nothing will bring UNITY quite like the Gospel. Yet, few organizations have fought more often or split more bitterly than the church.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA OF THE TEXT?

It was a meeting in Jerusalem which had huge consequences for us today. In response to a revelation from God externally (v2a) and in response to fear internally (v2b). Nothing was threatening Paul's certainty, but something was threatening his fruitfulness.

1) False teachers were telling these young Christians that Paul was preaching a gospel that was inadequate and not as full as the original apostolic gospel preached by the Jerusalem leaders. v4

2) The fundamental question was whether we need to add external behaviors to internal belief in Christ in order to be saved. That's why Paul said that "the freedom we have in Christ" (v4) was under threat, and therefore that the very "truth of the gospel" was at stake (v5). Not even Titus... was compelled to be circumcised (v3). They added nothing to my message (v6).

3) Externalities are to do with our doing; internalities have to do with our being: and Christianity is about who I am in Christ, not what I do for Him. v9; Col1:22; John 13:2-11

HOW DOES THE GOSPEL GIVE FREEDOM?

1) Spiritual Freedom: Works Righteousness = Pride/Fear. Grace Righteousness = Humble Confidence. Rom5:1

2) Psychological Freedom: Anything you add to Christ as a requirement for your happiness will enslave you. Ps16:4

3) Cultural Freedom: It means accepting anyone and everyone who is "in Christ Jesus" (v4), regardless of their cultural and ethnic background. Gal3:28

MARKS OF REAL UNITY

1st In the essential Christian beliefs we have unity. vv3, 4
Deity of Christ, Original Sin, Canon of Scripture, Trinity, Resurrection, Incarnation, Newness of life, Eschatology

2nd In non-essential beliefs there is liberty. v7

3rd But in all our beliefs we show love. v10

Growing Notes

1) It is the height of irony that few organizations have fought more often or split more bitterly than the church. Do you agree or disagree? Explain. Why is Gospel unity so important to Jesus (John 17:21)? How important should it be to us as Christians?

2) Read Galatians 2:1-10. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem (v2)? Why did Paul bring Titus along (v3)? What was at stake (vv4-5)? How did the Jerusalem leaders respond to Paul's message (v6)? What is the big idea of the text?

3) How does the Gospel give freedom spiritually? Psychologically? Culturally? What are the three marks of Christian unity? What are the differences between essential and non-essential Christian beliefs? Why do you think there is little point in describing how to live in light of God's grace if someone doesn't yet know God's Grace? Why in all our beliefs we are to show love (Jn13:34-35)? Pray that db will promote Christian unity without compromising Gospel truth.