

FREEDOM

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

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, October 24/25, 2015

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“Religion vs. the Gospel” Galatians 4:8-20

The text gives us two contrasts between Religion vs. the Gospel:

1st What it looks like in our relationship with God vv8-11

2nd What it looks like in our relationship with others vv12-20

Why does it matter? As Paul sees the Galatians failing to do this, he is “afraid” for them (v11) and “perplexed” about them (v20). Life and death, heaven and hell hang in the balance for both this life and the life to come (John 10:10; Matt7:21-23).

RELIGION vs. THE GOSPEL

What It Looks Like In Our Relationship with God: (vv8-11)

1) **Religion is about being your own Savior and Lord.** Vv8-9

- **Two ways to save yourself: Self Discovery** (v8)(Breaking all the rules & setting your own course) **Moral Conformity** (v10)(Keeping all the rules and being very, very good) i.e. Prodigal Sons Luke15:11-32
- **Both enslave you because they are counterfeit gods.** V8 “you were enslaved” v9 “whose slaves you want to be”

2) **The Gospel is about Jesus being your Savior and Lord.** V9

- **To know God** Jn17:3; Jer9:23-24
- **To be known by God** 1Cor4:3-4; Rom5:8-10; 1Jn3:1

What It Looks Like In Our Relationship with Others: (vv12-20)

Gospel centered people/ministries...

- 1) **Seek to balance truth with love.** vv12-15
- 2) **Don't tell people what they want to hear but what they need to hear.** V16
- 3) **Do not need to have fans who are emotionally dependent on them because they seek to glorify God, assured of salvation through faith in Him.** V17
- 4) **Motivate people not out of fear or pride but a heart captivated by the Gospel.** V18

5) **Desperately want people to follow and be dependent upon Christ as they do.** vv19-20

“The Gospel frees us from the need for people’s approval and adoration so that we can confront and anger the people we love if that is what is best for them. And although it does not always work, this is the only kind of communication that really changes people. If you love a person so selfishly that you cannot risk their anger, you won’t ever tell them the truth they need to hear. If, on the other hand, you tell a person the truth they need, but with harshness and not with the agony of a lover, they won’t listen to it. But if you speak the truth with lots of love evident at the same time, there is a great chance that what you say will penetrate the heart and heal. A Gospel-based ministry (or person) is marked by loving honesty, not spin, image and flattery.” –Timothy Keller

Growing Notes

- 1) What is the difference between Religion and the Gospel? Do you think that most people who reject the Gospel are rejecting a biblical understanding of the Gospel? Why is it important to know the difference between Religion and the Gospel (Matt7:21-23)?
- 2) Read Galatians 4:8-20. What stands out to you? What were their lives like before they knew God (v8)? What are the two ways we try to be our own Savior and Lord (vv8, 10; Luke 15:11-32)? What are the results of our self-salvation efforts (vv8-9)?
- 3) What does it mean to know God and be known by God (v9)? Why is it more important to be known by God? Why do you think that Christians who are insecure that God loves and accepts them pursue counterfeit gods? Why is the cure to idolatry not just knowing God but being known by God?
- 4) Review the five points and verses under what a Gospel centered people/ministry looks like along with Keller’s quote. What stand out to you? Why do you think this is the by-product of people who know and are known by God? What is God speaking to you from this study? Pray that we db will continue to be more and more Gospel centered.