

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

August 22, 2021

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Galatians 3:1-5

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: Virginia Grosskurth

Message: *There's No Fool Like A Grace Fool*
(Galatians 3:1-5)

Announcements

September 12th Pastor Kevin Sadler will be our guest speaker. Kevin is the president of *Berean Bible Society*, and the teacher on BBS's *Transformed By Grace* TV broadcast. He'll picnic with us too, so you can get to know him better!

Please pray for Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach as he carries on Dave's ministry in our Adult Sunday School Class in addition to his online ministry and speaking engagements.

September 27th Oscar Ochoa Jr. will teach Paul's class as Paul ministers at *Grace Gospel Church* in Linton, Indiana.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone

Galatians 2:17-21 *Justified and Go Seek*

We are “now” justified (Rom.5:1,9). The word “seek” (Gal.2:17) sometimes means *to look to something* (Amos 5:5,6). All Jews knew where Gilgal was, but it was filled with idols. So God told the Jews not to *look to* Gilgal to save them from being taken captive by the Assyrians, for *Gilgal herself* would be taken captive. And Paul was telling Peter they both *looked to Christ* to be justified, not the law (2:16).

Paul says “God forbid” to the idea that looking to Christ for justification made Him a sinner. He rather says, “I make *myself* a transgressor” when I sin (2:17)—specifically if he sinned the sin Peter sinned, rebuilding “the middle wall of partition” between Jews and Gentiles (Eph.2:11-14) that *Peter* rebuilt when he stopped eating with Gentiles. Paul's ministry of grace destroyed the law, the Lord didn't (Mt.5:17).

So why does Paul say the Lord *did* (Eph.2:13-15)? Well, that was *how* the wall was destroyed, not *when*. Christ's work on the cross didn't go into effect until Paul's ministry, just as November elections don't go into effect until January. Paul's telling the Galatians about all this because *they too* had gone back to the law. They thought the law would make them more holy, but Paul says it makes a man a transgressor!

Romans 7:4 says we are “dead to the law,” and here we learn we are dead to the law “through the law.” Paul calls the law a “ministration of *death*” (II Cor.3:7) because it says sinners must die because they can't keep the law perfectly (James 2:10,11). But Paul says we died *with Christ* (Rom.6:3,4).

Of course, once a criminal is executed, the law that condemned him to death *can't condemn him any more*. And the law of Moses can't condemn *us* any more now that we died with Christ. So now we can “live unto God” (Gal.2:19). The Galatians thought *the law* would help them live to God, but God gave the law to make sin *worse* (Rom.7:13), to *strengthen*

en sin (ICor.15:56), so unsaved men would know they need a Savior. It wasn't made for righteous believers (ITim.1:9).

So how are we supposed to “live unto God” (Gal.2:19)? The answer is: under grace, knowing that Christ died for us makes us want to stop living sinfully for ourselves and live unto Him (ICor.5:15). But the Galatians seemed to have forgotten that, so Paul reminds them in Galatians 2:20.

Of course, the only way a crucified man can say “I live” (2:20) is if he rises from the dead—and *we were raised with Christ* (Eph.2: 4,5). When Paul adds, “yet not I, but Christ liveth in me,” he's not saying it's no longer him living, he's saying it's *both*.

This is similar to what happens when a woman becomes “one flesh” with her husband (Gen.2:24). They become *one life*. In speaking of Adam and Eve, God called “their” name Adam (5:2) because *she lost her identity in her husband*. She still had her own identity, but now she also had Adam's. And we still have our old life, but we also have Christ's.

That's why Paul says we are “dead to the law...that we should be married to...Him...that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Rom.7:4). We couldn't bring God “fruit unto holiness” (6:22) when we were married to the law, but we can now!

But we need the Lord's help. That's why Paul says he lived his new life by the faith “of” Christ (Gal.2:20), i.e., His *faithfulness* to intercede for us (Rom.8:33,34). Without that, the law could lay *plenty* of sins to our charge and condemn us!

Clamoring for the law like the Galatians did *frustrated* God's grace (Gal.2:21). The word “frustrate” means *to defeat* (cf. Ezra 4:1,5). Grace can help you live unto God, but the law will defeat God's grace in that endeavor, because no law can make men righteous (2:21cf.3:21).

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

August 22, 2021

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

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