

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Gospel of Grace

SERMON REFERENCE: Galatians 1:6-12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2166

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) In the generation in which we live, we think that we are making progress, but we do not know where we are going.
 - i) In the things that really count, we are not making progress through civilization, science, learning, or technology.
- b) People have three great enemies:
 - i) Sin
 - ii) Sorrow
 - iii) Death
- c) What has civilization done about sin?
 - i) The only thing civilization has done about sin is to re-label it.
 - (1) A thief is now an embezzler.
 - (2) A drunkard is now an alcoholic.
 - (3) No longer is a person sinful; he is morally challenged.
 - ii) We have not made any progress in the matter of sin.
- d) We have not made any progress in the matter of sorrow.
 - i) Suicide has reached epidemic proportions.
 - ii) Mental institutions are filled and overcrowded.
 - iii) We do not know what to do with those who have broken minds, broken hopes, and broken hearts.
- e) We have not made any progress in the matter of death.
 - i) We may have postponed it a little; but from the time that Cain murdered his own brother, all of us have been hurt by death.
 - ii) We have tried to camouflage death.
 - (1) A coffin is now called a casket.
 - (2) No longer is a person an undertaker; he's a mortician.
 - (3) No longer is it a graveyard; it is a memorial park.
 - iii) We have not changed the facts about death.
- f) There is no answer for sin, sorrow, and death apart from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - i) There are those who want to offer some other answer, but there is no other answer.
- g) The devil has tried to pervert the Gospel.
 - i) Galatians 1:6-12
 - (1) In this passage, "let him be accursed" literally means "let him be damned."
 - ii) He perverts the saving Gospel by what we call "the social gospel."
 - (1) Many churches are not telling people how to be saved.
 - (a) They're telling people to do good, to feed the homeless, clothe the naked, and heal the sick.
 - (i) Anyone who is saved ought to do those things.
 - 1. But this is not the Gospel.
 - (b) If we do these things and do not preach the Gospel, then all we are doing is making the world a better place to go to Hell from.

- (2) There is no social gospel.
 - (a) There is only a saving Gospel which is the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - iii) Another perversion of the Gospel is New Age occultism.
 - (1) This has the idea of reincarnation.
 - h) There are people in our churches today who have never met Gospel truth.
 - i) Churches are filled with those who try to do good but who have never really been saved.
 - i) We are materially rich in America but morally poor because people do not know the Gospel.
 - j) In today's message, we will look at five facts about the Gospel of grace, the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 2) THE SATANIC OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL: SATAN FOUGHT IT (GALATIANS 1:6-9)
 - a) Satan fought the Gospel in Paul's day, and he is fighting the Gospel in our day.
 - b) Galatians 1:6-7
 - c) Satan is a pervert.
 - i) He has no raw material.
 - ii) All he can do is take what God has created and twist and pervert it.
 - (1) God made everything, and sin is a perversion of that which is good.
 - d) Rather than deny the Gospel, Satan had rather pervert the Gospel.
 - i) If people will accept a synthetic gospel, then they will never see their need for the real Gospel.
 - ii) Look at the religious world today:
 - (1) Anyone can make up a list of things they want to believe, ways they want to act, and somewhere they will find a church in today's society where they will fit right in.
 - (2) To some, the Gospel is like a cafeteria line:
 - (a) They take what they like and the amount that they like.
 - (b) They do not take what they do not like.
 - (c) Then, they have a do-it-yourself religion.
 - (3) There are people who are looking for a religion that suits them.
 - (a) But they had better find one that suits God.
 - e) When it comes to Gospel truth, there can be no compromise.
 - i) In the things that count for eternity, why should we not stand up for that which is truth?
 - f) Galatians 1:8-9
 - i) Our natural sensibilities say that this is unkind, intolerant, and that there is room for everything in religion.
 - (1) If one way is right and only one way, then all the other ways are wrong.
 - g) Galatians 1:7

- h) Many people in churches today do not know what they really believe.
 - i) People have no idea what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is, and they could not give the Gospel truth if they were asked to.
 - (1) This is not talking about a Baptist gospel, a Presbyterian gospel, a Methodist gospel, etc.
 - i) The only way anyone is going to go to Heaven is through the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 3) THE SETTLED ORIGIN OF THE GOSPEL: GOD THOUGHT IT (GALATIANS 1:8-9, 11-12)
 - a) Galatians 1:11-12
 - b) What is the origin of the Gospel?
 - i) It came from Almighty God.
 - (1) The Gospel is not man's invention.
 - ii) It comes by divine revelation.
 - c) When it comes to the Gospel, we need to put our intellect and emotions to the side and pick up the Bible.
 - i) Many times, we take the Word of God and parade it past the bar of human reasoning and judgment.
 - ii) Some may think it does not seem right that there is only one way to be saved and that all other ways are wrong.
 - (1) This is not logical to them.
 - (2) So, they try to bring human ingenuity, wit, and wisdom against the Gospel.
 - (a) If this does not work, then they bring their emotions.
 - (i) They say that it does not feel right to them.
 - iii) When it comes to the Gospel, it does not matter what we think or what we feel.
 - (1) It is what God says that counts.
 - (2) Many people make the tragic mistake of going by their feelings rather than going by God's Word.
 - d) There is the divine origin of the Bible.
 - i) We are not looking for a new and modern Gospel for a new and modern age.
 - (1) If it is new, then it is not true.
 - ii) Galatians 1:8-9
 - (1) Paul was saying that if any new revelation comes, then it is not of God.
 - (2) If anyone says that there is a new Gospel or if an angel appears with a new message from God, then we are not to believe it.
 - iii) The Gospel is settled once and for all.
 - (1) There are some who have the idea that religion is changing.
 - (a) Because we live in a new day and age, they think that we need a new Gospel.

- (2) It is not the messenger that validates the message; it is the message that validates the messenger.
 - (a) If someone is not preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then that person is a false prophet and the wrath of God is upon him.
- e) Paul did not receive the Gospel from man, and neither was he taught it.
 - i) It came by revelation.
 - (1) God thought it; it was in God's mind.

4) THE SACRIFICIAL OBTAINMENT OF THE GOSPEL: JESUS BOUGHT IT
(GALATIANS 1:3-7)

- a) How did we get the Gospel?
 - i) Jesus bought it.
 - (1) He obtained it with His blood.
- b) Galatians 1:7
- c) How did Christ buy it?
 - i) Galatians 1:3-5
 - ii) The Gospel was purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) It is the Gospel of the cross.
 - (2) It is the Gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- d) The Gospel centers in Christ.
 - i) It is not a Gospel that simply mentions Christ or alludes to Him.
 - ii) It is the Gospel of Christ.
 - iii) Many churches today are filled with people who have never been saved.
 - (1) They have never had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.
 - (a) They have met a creed but not Christ.
 - (b) They have met a cause but not Christ.
 - (c) They have met a code but not Christ.
 - (d) They have met a church but not Christ.
 - (e) Do you know Jesus Christ?
 - iv) Galatians 1:7
 - (1) It is not just the Gospel that brings Christ in; it centers in Him.
 - (2) When the Apostle Paul wrote this, the pagan people had many gods.
 - (a) Rome was not a destroyer of religions, but it brought all the religions together and syncretized the religions of the world.
 - (i) We cannot do that with Jesus Christ.
 - (ii) It is not "Jesus and"; it is "Jesus or".
- e) It is Jesus only.
 - i) Acts 4:12
 - ii) John 14:6
 - iii) If Jesus Christ is not the only way, then He is none of the ways because He would be a liar and an imposter.
 - (1) He was the one who said that He was the only way.
 - (a) We cannot just tip the hat to Jesus Christ.
 - (b) We have to bow the knee to Jesus Christ.

- iv) Many Christians in Paul's day could have saved their lives if they had said that Jesus was just one of the ways to Heaven.
 - f) Galatians 1:3-4
 - g) If there had been some other way for us to be saved apart from the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, then God would have taken it.
 - h) Acts 4:12
 - i) Romans 1:16
 - i) God Himself is powerless to save apart from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) God is a Holy God, and sin must be atoned for.
- 5) THE SAVING OPERATION OF THE GOSPEL: GRACE WROUGHT IT (GALATIANS 1:5-6, 15)
- a) It is called the Gospel of grace.
 - i) Galatians 1:6
 - b) Grace causes God to love people like us.
 - i) We are vile, unworthy, sinners by nature, sinners by birth, sinners by choice, and sinners by practice.
 - c) Why are we saved by the grace of God?
 - i) It is a seeking grace.
 - (1) Paul talked about the grace that sought him.
 - (a) Galatians 1:15
 - (b) When Paul was saved, he was not seeking Jesus.
 - (i) Jesus was seeking Him.
 - (ii) Acts 9:3-6
 - (2) The only reason we seek the Lord is because He first sought us.
 - (a) Romans 3:10-11
 - (3) We have a hunger and thirst for God because He gave it to us.
 - (a) The thirst for God that is in us is a gift of God.
 - ii) It is separating grace.
 - (1) Galatians 1:15
 - (a) It pleased God to do this.
 - (2) When God came into the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve sinned, He called out to Adam.
 - (a) Genesis 3:9
 - (b) That wasn't the voice of a detective but the voice of a loving God.
 - (c) God is seeking you today.
 - iii) It is saving grace.
 - (1) Galatians 1:16
 - (2) Ephesians 2:8-9
 - (a) Grace is the free gift of God.
 - (3) We are not saved by joining a church, being baptized, singing in the choir, or just by going to church.
 - (a) We are saved by the grace of God.
 - (4) Works do not save, and works do not help save.

- (a) Romans 11:6
- (b) We cannot mix grace and works.
- (c) Baptism, prayers, or anything that we do cannot take away our sin.
- iv) It is securing grace.
 - (1) We have eternal security because we are saved by grace.
 - (a) If we were saved by works, then we would lose our salvation when our works fail.
 - (b) Grace can never fail.
 - (2) Galatians 3:3
 - (a) The Spirit that has saved us is the Spirit that is going to perfect us and carry us all the way through.
 - (3) Some people believe that they can lose their salvation.
 - (a) If Jesus were to just show us how to be saved, then He would be an example.
 - (b) If Jesus were to just tell us how to be saved, then He would be an instructor.
 - (i) We don't need an example or an instructor; we need a Savior.
 - (c) If Jesus were to rescue or save us and then throw us overboard for not doing something right, then He would not be a savior but a probation officer.
 - (4) Jesus is a Savior.
 - (a) We are thankful for His example and His teaching, but He is a Savior.
- v) It is sufficient grace.
 - (1) It is all we will ever need.
 - (a) We will not run out of the grace of God.
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 9:8
 - (3) God's grace is never insufficient.
- vi) It is surviving grace.
 - (1) Galatians 1:5
 - (2) The Bible says that in the ages to come, the saved will be trophies of God's grace.
 - (a) We will be in glory because of the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

6) THE SINGULAR OBSESSION WITH THE GOSPEL: PAUL TAUGHT IT

(GALATIANS 1:9-10)

- a) Galatians 1:9-10
- b) Paul was obsessed with the Gospel.
 - i) It was a divine obsession.
- c) We all have a desire to please people.
 - i) We all want to please.
 - ii) But we should be like the Apostle Paul who said that it didn't matter whom he pleased if he displeased God.

- iii) If we try to please everyone, then we are going to please the devil most of all.
- d) Paul loved the Galatians, but he was obsessed with the Gospel and was not trying to please them.
 - i) Paul was not trying to please the Galatians or the civil authorities in Rome.
 - ii) Paul knew that it was Jesus, not Caesar, whom He had met on the road to Damascus.
 - iii) Government cannot make us good; only Jesus can make us good.
 - (1) We need to pray for our government officials, but only Jesus can pave the way to Heaven.
 - (2) We have to please the Lord Jesus.
 - (a) Christians ought to be involved in politics, and we need to be able to tell all political parties to repent and get right with God.
 - (b) Moses didn't try to please Pharaoh.
 - (c) Elijah didn't try to please Ahab.
- e) Paul was not trying to please the false teachers.
 - i) There are false teachers around today.
 - ii) The way to get along with everyone is to never mention true doctrine.
 - iii) Galatians 1:9
- f) Paul was not trying to win a popularity contest.
 - i) If we want to be unpopular today, then preach that there is only one way to Heaven and it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- g) Paul did not try to please his own family.
 - i) Paul was a Jew and was raised according to strict laws.
 - (1) Galatians 1:13-14
 - ii) They thought that Paul had betrayed them and left them.
 - (1) They were not pleased with Paul.
- h) The Apostle Paul had a singular obsession with the Gospel.
 - i) He preached the Gospel no matter whom it displeased.

7) CONCLUSION

- a) The saving Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Gospel of grace.
 - i) Satan fought it.
 - ii) God thought it.
 - iii) Jesus bought it.
 - iv) Grace wrought it.
 - v) Paul taught it.
 - vi) We are to stand on it.
- b) If you will receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then He will dramatically change you.
 - i) He will save you and keep you saved.
 - ii) If you are truly saved, then you will want to acknowledge Christ as your personal Savior.

- (1) Mark 8:38
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16