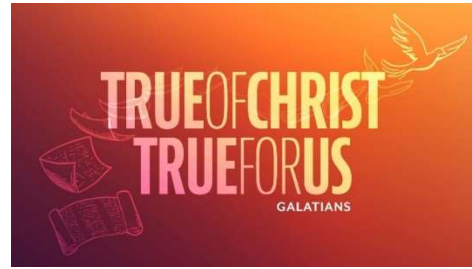


October 22, 2023
Sermon Discussion Guide
Galatians 5:1-12
Preacher: Jim Kramer



SUMMARY

Big Idea: The Grace of God: Faith that saves, sustains, and secures TRUE freedom.

Paul has argued for the truth that justification (right standing with God) is by grace alone through faith alone, in Christ alone. He concluded chapter 4 (last week) by stressing that those who believe are sons of the “free woman”, Sarah, and not sons of the slave woman (Hagar). It is this freedom that Paul seeks to focus on and unpack in chapter 5, in particular for its implications for shaping our minds and hearts toward Christian living. The first application of freedom is that we stand firm in it and not go back to slavery by means of trusting in and relying on our own performance. The freedom that grace brings through faith in Christ is an offense (scandalous), but it is precisely this freedom that provides the only God-glorifying motive to live in a manner worthy of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 5:1-12

1. What does Paul have in mind when he calls believers to “stand firm”? What temptation is he anticipating?
 - a. Is standing firm in the truth of justification by grace alone through faith alone a desire that shows up in your prayer life? How do you stand firm in this?
2. Do you feel like the things you do, or don't do, earn God's favor or acceptance of you?
 - a. Is there something, other than faith in Christ, that is giving you assurance or comfort regarding your right standing with God?
3. Why is grace, the cross, the gospel, scandalous?
 - a. *Note:* verse 11 uses the word “offense”, this word in Greek is *skandalon*, elsewhere translated “stumbling block”, see Romans 9:30-33, and/or 1 Cor 1:18-25
 - b. What ought to be the effects of receiving such scandalous grace?
 - i. Do you feel you owe God everything? If yes, which of the following 2 motivations or mindsets fuel that?
 1. I am indebted and must therefore pay back and work off
 2. I don't owe anything, God doesn't need anything, so I freely give Him everything
 3. Which of these motives accords with sonship? Which with slavery?
4. Jim mentioned in the sermon, with reference to verse 6, that faith “removes the shame of sin, the guilt of sin, and the fear of sin's punishment.” What truth of the gospel, if believed, would set you free?
5. Who needs to hear and believe in God's grace-produced freedom? Yes, we all do, I hear you. Nevertheless, who have you been praying for God to save? Spend some time as a group praying for unbelieving friends, family, coworkers, etc.. That the God of grace would free them through the Truth, by His Spirit.