

Lesson 75 Answers and Comments

Removed	not	now	all
Called	well	perfect	curses
Grace	exclude	flesh	evil
Christ	he	gospel	seducers
Another	troubleth	me	worse
Gospel	trouble	not	worse
Not	you	revelation	deceiving
Justified	many	Jesus	deceived
Works	fair	Christ	blessedness
Law	shew	lie	
Faith	flesh	not	
Believed	circumcised	lie	
Justified	circumcised	not	
Faith	law	lie	
Of	circumcised	not	
Not	parting	truth	
No	grievous	lie	
Justified	wolves	not	
Children	spoil	if	
Own	tradition	hearken	
Son	men	observe	
Son	troubled	do	
Son	words	commandments	
Begotten	subverting	all	
Trouble	faith	blessings	
You	circumcised	but	
Pervert	keep	it	
They	law	not	

Recently in talking to an acquaintance about God's revelation to Paul concerning His wonderful grace, I was met with this sarcastic reply: "Well I think Jesus is just a little more important than Paul." This attitude is not much different than what Moses experienced from the Jews and also his closest allies. In Num. 12:2 Miriam and Aaron say "And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it."

The Lord's anger was kindled against Aaron and Miriam for speaking such things against Moses, His spokesman. God's spokesman for the age of grace is Paul and the church has suffered greatly for its denial of that. Not that God has brought leprosy on the church but the church has become ineffective and unprofitable for the work of the Lord.

Lesson 76 Where is the Blessedness?

Gal. 4:15 “Where is then the blessedness ye spake of?...”

We ended the last lesson with the high cost of legalism in a believer’s life. We saw from Gal. 4:15 that the blessedness that the believers at Galatia had once enjoyed was now gone. Let’s look at this verse a little closer.

This verse tells us that one of the outcomes of Paul’s message is blessedness.

God wants our lives characterized by blessedness. God’s message preached by Paul is designed to produce blessedness in our lives. What is blessedness?

Rom. 4:6 “Even David also describeth the _____ of the man, unto whom God _____ without _____, vs. 7 Saying _____ are they whose _____ are _____, and whose sins are covered. Vs. 8 _____ is the man to whom the Lord will _____ impute _____.”

We remember the sin of David that caused him to utter these magnificent words. The overflowing joy that filled his heart knowing that God had forgiven him must have been nothing short of pure rapture and delight. Read Ps. 51 to get a sense of what David is referring to. Ps. 32:1, 2 is where David’s quote comes from. In vs. 11 we see the blessedness that David experienced, “Be _____ in the Lord, and _____, ye _____: and _____ for _____, all ye that are upright in heart.”

In Ps. 33:1-3 we find expressions of blessedness. Vs. 1 “_____ in the Lord...” vs. 2 _____ the Lord with _____.” Vs. 3 “_____ unto him a new _____...”

We who have been so wondrously saved by God’s grace should know this blessedness. Knowing that we who were once: sinners, enemies of God, without strength, alienated from the life of God, wicked, guilty, deserving of God’s wrath, are now chosen, beloved, righteous, accepted, forgiven, heirs of God, justified, holy, children of God, should have an uncontainable blessedness that floods our life.

Sadly, the believers at Galatia no longer enjoyed the blessedness that they once had at the onset of thir salvation.

At the onset of their salvation the Galatian believers knew that Christ had secured everything for them at the cross. They knew the _____ of _____ Gal. 1:6. The _____ of _____ Gal. 1:7. They knew they were _____ by the _____ of Christ Gal. 2:16. They knew they had received the _____ by the hearing of _____ Gal. 3:2. They knew they were the _____ of God by _____ in Christ Jesus Gal. 3:26. They knew that they had been _____ into _____ that they had put _____ Gal. 3:27. They knew they had been called unto _____ Gal. 5:13. They knew that in Christ they were a new _____ Gal. 6:15. All these doctrines of grace had produced a blessedness in them.

The message preached by Paul had once produced an affection for Paul that caused them to receive Paul as an _____ of _____, even as _____.” Gal. 4:14.

They were willing to _____ out their own _____ and give them to Paul. Gal. 4:15. The grace of God had so captivated their hearts that they loved Paul to the uttermost! This was not wrong. Does not, should not, the grace of God produce a love for the saints? Col. 1:4 “and the _____ which ye have to all the _____.”

Lesson 76 Continued

But now Paul has to say to them, Gal. 4:20 "...for I stand in _____ of you. Gal. 4:11 "I am _____ of you,..." Paul is now afraid and in doubt of them. Not in doubt of their salvation but in uncertainty as to the state of their spiritual condition.

We might be thinking, how could this happen? How could those once enlightened, those who had embraced the doctrines of grace be turned away? Gal. 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not _____ the _____ of the _____."

Our flesh will always want to operate in independence from God. Our flesh will try to deny God's grace in providing everything for us in the person and work of Christ. Our flesh will lead us to a performance based acceptance with God.

What are some of the things that legalism does to the believer that takes away the blessedness (Gal. 4:15) that he enjoys in grace?

- I. **Bondage** – Gal. 2:4 "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our _____ which we have _____, that they might bring us into _____."

Bondage to the law will suffocate the blessedness (joy) of a believer.

Gal. 4:3, "...when we were children, were in _____ under the _____ of the _____..." vs. 9 "...how turn ye again to the _____ and _____, whereunto ye _____ again to be in _____?" And what are these elements that enslave? Vs. 10 "Ye observe _____, and _____, and _____, and _____. Read Lev. 25:1-24 to get a little understanding about what days, years and times meant to a Jew living under the law. Under the law certain days, months, years and times were very important. Faith has always believed God's word to you.

Rom. 4:3 "...Abraham _____ God... vs. 5 "...his _____ is counted for _____."

If a Jew, living under the law, had faith, he would keep the law. He would observe (keep) these days as God's word specified.

Col. 2:16 "Let no man therefore judge you in _____, or in _____, or in respect of an _____, or of the _____, or of the _____:"

There were many dietary laws, Lev. 11:2 "Speak unto the children of _____, saying, These are the _____ which ye shall _____..."

Ezekiel 4:14 "Then said I, Ah Lord God! Behold, my _____ hath not been _____: and how was his soul clean? "for from my _____ up even til now have I _____ of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces, neither came there _____ into my _____."

The two contrasting words that Paul uses in Gal. 2:4 are liberty and bondage. There is liberty in Christ. Liberty from bondage from the law.

- II. **Debtor**, Gal. 5:3 "...that he is a _____ to do the _____."

Lesson 76 Continued

Legalists, those who approach God on a performance basis, like to pick and choose the laws that they want to keep. But the scripture is clear, the law is to be taken as a whole.

James 2:10, "For whosoever shall _____ the _____ law, and yet _____ in _____ point, he is _____ of _____."

Deut. 27:26 "Cursed be he that _____ not _____ the _____ of this _____ to _____ them..."

Being a debtor to the whole law will also suffocate the blessedness of a believer.

III. Fallen from grace.

Legalism presents a law performance for acceptance with God. The benefits and profits of grace to our spiritual experience in time is lost to those who approach God on a law basis.

Gal. 5:4 "Christ is become of _____ unto you, whosoever of you are _____ by the _____, ye are _____ from _____."

If Christ has become of no effect to you (not the one in whom you are totally and absolutely complete) then your blessedness will languish.

We should each examine our own lives. Has legalism crept in? Do we ever appeal to God's acceptance of us based on our performance? Do we ever think that we are removed from God's acceptance because of our lack of performance?

God wants godliness in our lives. Godliness in the age of grace comes from being obedient to the mystery preached by Paul.

I Tim. 6:3 "...and to the _____ which is according to _____;" Godliness produced by doctrine will please the Lord. Sound doctrine will instruct us. Titus 2:11, 12 tell us that it is God's grace that teaches us about godliness, not the law!

I pray that the blessedness that comes from knowing the doctrines of grace will be overflowing in our lives.