



Jesus: Truly Sufficient?

Galatians 1:1–6:18

Tuesday, June 16th, 2020

Since the whole book of Galatians doesn't fit in this space, I encourage you to read through the whole book before reading on!

Reflect on Jesus and the journey he took you on before you met Him for the first time and understood His gospel. Every story looks different of course; maybe it happened in an emotional moment, maybe it was over a longer period of time, but think about how your relationship with God all started.

For me, I had noticed that my life wasn't going the way I hoped. I grew up thinking God was all about being a good person and following His rules. But this "successful" life felt very empty. Then God brought me to a group where I learned what He actually says in His Word. What Jesus really says is that I am desperately broken on the inside and have deep problems of the heart, but that this is all fixable through His forgiveness for my sins and a relationship with Him. He offered me true life, completely free of charge, since He earned this new life through His death on the Cross. I was so relieved and took Jesus up on His offer, excited by this new relationship with God! Christ and His grace were so real to me, I couldn't imagine my life being about anything else but God and His church!

Galatians meets us as individuals and as a church right at this point. We start off with purely living out of Christ's grace and sacrifice, knowing we can't earn anything more than He has given us. Then we start thinking that God's grace was just to get us in the door but has nothing to do with our lives now as Christians. For the Galatians, people were convincing them that Jesus wasn't in fact completely sufficient; we also need to follow the Law of rules and rituals. And that Paul guy? He wasn't one of Christ's original disciples anyways. He's a confused, weak man-pleaser!

You can read through his letter just how grieved Paul was over the Galatians' new false beliefs. But here we should examine ourselves and our church: where have we begun to add something to Christ? Don't just look at words and thoughts, look at actions, since they also come out of the heart. Do you think that following the rules and pleasing others will earn you more blessings from God or give you a better life? Do you believe the lie that you have to just give and give without receiving love from God and others? Take these things to Jesus and actively replace them with His sufficient love and grace!

In the end, Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross have already earned us everything. Our part is simple faith; to believe Jesus and what He says about us, resting in His finished work so we can then give His love to others. I hope this devotional series will be a tool God uses in your life to call you back to the sweet, simple devotion to Christ and your relationship with Him.

Prayer: LORD, we admit that You are sufficient for our whole lives and salvation. Thank You for Your love and sacrifice that bought us this relationship with You forever. Thank You that we don't have to do anything to earn Your love or approval. Help us to rest in You as You lovingly reveal to us where we have started to go the wrong way. Amen.

-Tony Grigg-

