



Liberated

Galatians

Friday, July 31st, 2020

Conclusion of the letter

We all know the dull feeling that something is missing in our life of faith - it is not enough. Often this results in frustrated service and little real dedication. Paul also recognized this lack of joy among the Galatians (Gal. 4:15) and they probably did not act out of evil intent. They were used to know their old law and to live by it. In the end, they trusted other teachers who still described the Law as relevant to their salvation. Paul warns them in all seriousness: "But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! (...) For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God." Gal 2:17-19

Wisely, he also used the example of Abraham, who was also endowed by his faith and not by his works, so that we are now also heirs, sons, and daughters. We can call our God "Abba, father" at the end. (Gal 4:6)

To what extent is this book relevant in a time of ego-centeredness, in a society that simultaneously expects boundless acceptance? Today, life should be free to live and specially imposed laws do not seem appropriate. However, it is the same phenomenon today as it was in Martin Luther's time. No matter whether one believes in Jesus or not, man wants to prove and justify himself. To die one's old life in Christ and to accept for a new life in Jesus of immeasurable grace is probably one of the most difficult things. We succeed in accepting this grace through a life that is rooted in God through praise, prayer, and fellowship. As a church we are called to help each other in this.

The idea is overwhelming that God's covenant from the Old to the New Testament is crowned in His grace. His law was also already good, and yet we cannot stand before God with the help of the law and our own righteousness (Gal. 4:5). How great then must God's grace and our deliverance be?

Prayer: Lord, I thank You that we can crucify our old creature and put on a new dress. Please help us to accept Your grace every day and to trust in You and Your Word more than in anything else. Amen

-Marita Völker-

