



Declared Righteous through Christ Alone

Galatians 1:3-7

Friday, June 19th, 2020

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”

It was heavy on Paul’s heart to explain to the Galatian church something they actually already knew, namely what exactly the gospel is. It’s not just a coincidence that he writes it in his introductory greetings to the church. He explains the gospel in verse 4 where he writes that Christ gave Himself for our sins (on the cross) to rescue us from the present evil age. That’s how Jesus fulfilled the will of the Father (see also 1 Cor. 15:3-4)

When we talk about the gospel, we can never leave out the fact that it is a gift, given out of complete grace. Paul writes in verse 6 here that the Galatians have begun deserting this grace, while they’ve been moving towards believing in another gospel. In those times, there was discrepancy on the question of circumcision and uncircumcision. The question of “righteousness” based on circumcision, as the Jews were all circumcised, led some of these brothers and sisters away from the true gospel.

In our western culture we don’t ask ourselves the question of circumcision – yes or no? But what leads us away from the grace of Christ?

I discovered that I sometimes get lost in the whole process of living a holy life. Because it’s not actually that I’m justified by my role or actions as a mother, wife, pastor’s wife, friend etc. We should live holy lives, but we cannot declare ourselves holy or righteous.

Where in your life do you turn away from the grace of Christ, and therefore the gospel? Where do you try to draw your righteousness from? Is it in the way you relate to others? Is it in your voluntary service in the church? By nature, we all try through our deeds to become better Christians or to be (even more) righteous before God.

Let us together consciously recognize that there is only one gospel. That Christ alone declares us “righteous”. This only happens out of total grace. Let us strongly hold on to what has been handed down to us once and for all (Jude 1:3). That it was Jesus alone who through His grace pulled us close to Him and declared us righteous.

Prayer: *Jesus, thank you that you have declared me righteous through your cross. Thank You for Your love and Your grace. I need Your righteousness so badly! Holy Spirit, remind us of this truth daily which You have poured out into our hearts. Amen.*

-Felicitas Gasnik-

