

Ministry Groups April GROW Lesson

Pathways to Grow! Connect! Serve! April 2008

“Pathways to GROW in Faith: For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free!”

Description: We will study the book of Galatians for April and May. The freedom of the Christian is the hallmark of this book. We are freed from the burden of the Law by the Gospel of grace in Jesus Christ. The Law requires perfection to achieve righteousness and justification, a right relationship with God. The Law can only bring condemnation and death because no one is perfect under the Law except Jesus. We are in Christ freed up to live in the blessings of God’s grace knowing we are justified, made right with God, not by our own efforts but as a free gift from a loving God.

Like God is determined to hold on to His children and the Good Shepherd is tenacious to hold on to His Sheep, the Apostle Paul seeks to hold on to his churches and implores them to hold on to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us never let go of the truth of the Gospel. The Good News is ‘to die for’, it is the ‘pearl of great price’, the ‘treasure hidden in a field’ worth giving everything to get and sacrificing anything to keep.

Text: Galatians 1:2b-8 & 2:15-21

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed!

¹⁵We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. ¹⁷But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; ²⁰and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

What does the freedom of the Christian mean or feel like for you?

What are the freedoms that come to us because we are ‘in Christ’?

Who in your life lives the freedom of the Christian more fully than anyone else and what makes you think so?

How are we free to live differently now because of our freedom in Christ?

Free from what...?

Free to what...?