

Galatians: Christ Has Set Us Free  
Lesson 6 “Critical Grace Theory”

I. Introduction - We are continuing through our study through the book of *Galatians* tonight.

A. Introduction

1. Paul wrote this book to give an revelation of grace and what the true gospel is. He wrote in a very emphatic and dogmatic and sort of in your face style. Why?
2. He was writing to churches in Galatia that he founded on his first missionary journey (*Acts 13-14*). These churches were founded in approximately 48 A.D.
3. Paul wrote Galatians about 3 years after he founded these churches to counter the teaching of the Judaizers. The Judaizers had come in and begin to say that these Christians had to continue to believe in Jesus but also live by the Mosaic law to be right with God. **Watered down the gospel.** Paul called their teaching of mixture a different gospel and said that those that taught it were accursed..
4. The main point of the letter is we are saved by putting faith in God’s grace. We cannot add to what Jesus did for us to get saved, maintain our salvation, and/ or to receive any of the blessings of God like healing, prosperity, etc.

B. Last week we studied the first half of *Galatians 3* and how we are redeemed from the curse of the law because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Tonight we are going to take our study a little deeper into something I’m calling “Critical Grace Theory.”

II. Critical Grace Theory

A. There are two points we are going to look at this tonight.

1. Prior to the coming of Jesus, we were in critical condition. The best of us were in critical condition. We were dead. We couldn’t save ourself. We are going to look at the lengths God went to in order to ensure our salvation without our help.
2. Because of what Christ did for us at the cross, we are restored to do life like He does. This means our circumstances (socioeconomic status, race, gender how we are treated, etc.) are no longer limitations in what we receive from God. **We need to stop making them limitations.**

B. **Galatians 3:15-18 God’s Changeless Promise**

1. **Verse 15** God is saying that if Abrahamic covenant that **verse 14** was a man’s covenant, it wouldn’t be annulled or added to. God dealt with Abraham by grace prior to the law.

2. *Verses 16* God didn't make the new covenant with many seeds. He made it with one seed who is Jesus. Why? If he met a covenant with all of us, we'd have messed it up. Prophesied in **Genesis 22:17-18**.
3. *Verses 17-18* The Old Covenant based on our works can't revoke the New Covenant. It was given by promise. **Jeremiah 33:20-21** We can't break it.

### C. Galatians 3:19-25 The Purpose of the Law

1. *Verse 19* God gave the law by angels on Mt. Sinai until the seed came until the time the Seed came. After Jesus came it wasn't necessary anymore.
2. *Verse 20* When Jesus went to the cross, He mediated with Himself. Why? He knew we'd mess it up. He took matters into His own hands.
3. *Verses 21-25* The isn't against the promises of God. It came to confine us all under sin. It was our tutor that brought us to Christ.
  - a. The law showed us the right way to live and showed we couldn't live it.
  - b. **Romans 3:19**

### D. Galatians 3:26-29 We Are Sons and Heirs in Christ

1. *Verse 26-27* Once we are Christ, we become God's sons and heir. The word son is the greek word, huioi which means maturity. This verse is an invitation to mature and when people see us they see Jesus. **1 John 4:17**.
2. *Verse 28* No matter our background, we are one in Christ.
  - a. In their culture the Jews and Greeks didn't socialize (Jews hated the Gentiles) and thought they were second class citizens.
  - b. Women were second class citizens in that culture. Jesus revolutionized that because of how He treated women with honor. Interestingly, one of the proofs of the resurrection is women are said to have discovered the empty tomb. In that culture, women's word didn't stand up in court so no credible story would come from a woman's perspective. The fact the disciples recorded women finding the empty tomb served no cultural advantage to them to get people to believe their story.
  - c. There is neither slave nor free.
3. We need to apply this truth today. It's not that we shouldn't do natural things to eliminate discrimination and injustice. We should, however we have to understand that we are in a critical condition and man can never pass enough laws to change hearts. We have to depend on Jesus and teach people who they are in Christ. **That puts them over the top no matter what the injustice.**
4. *Verse 29* If we are in Christ, we are sons and heirs of God.

III. Conclusion - We must learn to live from who we are in Christ.

A. Call Up Prayer Team and Pray Closing Prayer

