



The dispensation of “Grace.”

July 8, 2019

GALATIANS 2:21 NKJV - (21) I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Many citizens of heaven who have been set free by the grace of God in Christ, have not learned how to cast off the bondage of their birth through Adam. They talk about freedom, but they continue to live under an oppressive system of religious rules that sends them running. This system is known as legalism. And it's absolutely opposite of the freedom of what God has done for us. Please know this, “We were liberated by God's magnificent grace, and the old rule no longer apply! We must understand how we continue to be shackled under the program of “Legalism” and the bible goes great lengths to contest legalism.

Legalism is trying to please God by the flesh. The problem with this is obvious, “We cannot earn our salvation!” In **Galatians 1:6**, Paul is addressing the Galatians about their falling victim to legalism.

Were you saved by keeping the ten commandments? Are you going to heaven because you are a better neighbor? Because you shake your pastor's hand, is this your means of salvation? Is it because you go to church? Are you trying to please God by your very hardest to be good? Hopefully your answer to these questions is “No!” When a person tries to mix human effort with God's grace, it's like mixing oil with water.

Now keep this in mind, legalism is not merely the presence of the law. God's law is ‘Holy, righteous and good’ according to **Romans 7:12**. The problem is that the law provides no power to obey it. Legalism is not the presence of rules but the wrong attitude towards the rules. Legalism assigns to the rules a power to produce obedience that God never gave them. Victory and true liberty cannot be found in human effort. You see, legalism is a guilt motivated system. We either allow others to put us in bondage to their list of rules, or we shackle ourselves to our own list.

So the question is, “How do we correct legalism? The answer is by ‘Maintaining a relationship with God.’ Will there still be rules? Yes, but out of the basis of relationship, the rules grow out, rather than the being of the relationship. God wants to relate to us from the inside.

SCRIPTURE READING

HEBREWS 10:16

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When God saved you, He wrote His law in your heart and mind!