

From Performance to Peace

Scripture: Galatians 6:11-18
(08-09-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

In Galatians, Paul has shown them that the believer living under law and the believer living under grace are diametrically opposed to each other. It is a choice between bondage or liberty (Gal. 5:1–12), the flesh or the Spirit (vv. 13–26), and living for self or living for others (6:1–10), and now, living for the praise of men or the glory of God (Gal. 6:11–18).

For Paul, the cross meant liberty: from self (Gal. 2:20), the flesh (5:24), and the world (6:14). In the death and resurrection of Christ, the power of God is released to give believers deliverance and victory. It is no longer we who live; it is Christ who lives in us and through us. As we yield to Him, we have victory over the world and the flesh. There is certainly no power in the law to give a man victory over self, the flesh, and the world.

On the contrary, the law appeals to the human ego (“I can do something to please God”) and encourages the flesh to work. And the world does not care if we are “religious” just so long as the cross is left out. In fact, the world approves of religion—apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ. So, the legalist inflates the ego, flatters the flesh, and pleases the world; the true Christian crucifies all three.

Paul comes to the end of his letter; and he closes just the way he began: GRACE! Not “the law of Moses,” but GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. In what possessions, gifts, and opportunities are you tempted to boast? How does the message of the cross change your perspective?
2. What does it mean to boast in the cross? How can you boast in the cross practically every day?
3. How does Paul say the cross should affect our view of the world?
4. What role should the cross play in our gospel presentation? Be specific.