Sermon: The Freedom of Grace

July 12, 2020

Scripture: Galatians 2:1-16

I. Paul was seeking \_ Confirmation (1-6)

II. Paul reminded people that \_\_\_\_\_\_ had previously sent him to the Gentiles. (7-10); Acts 15:11; 12; 19-21

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III. Paul accuses Peter of \_\_\_\_\_\_. (11-14) Ephesians 2:13-16; Romans 14:13.

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ will <u>never</u> lead to justification with God. Verse (16) Romans 3:24-26 2 Corinthians 5:21. Romans 4:3;22-25

## Thought for the Day

Paul had a specific calling to reach non-Jewish (Gentiles) for Jesus. That did not mean God wanted a Jewish church and a non-Jewish church. Peter was a saved Jew who saw Jesus as the promised Messiah for the nation of Israel. He had observed the Law is whole life. God also revealed to him the gospel was for all men but he was holding on to some old traditions and rituals. When his Jewish brethren came, he reverted back to those traditions so they did not think he had compromised. Paul confronted him because the message became in order to be right with God a person must obey the rituals and traditions of the Jews. Paul reminded him that salvation was based on a relationship formed from belief in the death burial and resurrection of Jesus not by works of the Law. William Barclay writes: There are two great temptations in the Christian life. First there is the temptation to try to earn God's favor, and second, the temptation to use some little achievement to compare oneself with our fellow men to our advantage and their disadvantage. But the Christianity which has enough self left in it to think that by its own efforts it can please God and that by its own achievements it can show itself superior to other men is not true Christianity at all. We are saved by grace meaning we don't have to earn salvation. If we did have to earn it, it wouldn't be a gift. Since all have sinned and all are saved by grace, we have nothing to boast about except Jesus. That is called humility. God gives grace to the humble. Grace is what makes us free from the penalty and bondage of sin. That's the true blessing of Christianity. Pastor Bruce