

## 20260607 All of Grace, All of the Time – Ps Bijoy

### **Galatians 6:11-18**

Today we bring our series on the book of Galatians to a close. So let me ask you something as we finish. What is this whole book about? At the very beginning, Paul summarises the gospel in one sentence. Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. That is the gospel. Not what you have done. Not what you will do. What Christ has done. The moment anyone adds anything to that, Paul says the gospel is gone. That is why he wrote this letter without a single word of thanks or greeting. He just launches straight in. Because the gospel was under attack. And when the gospel is under attack, there is no time for pleasantries.

The attack came from the Judaizers. They came in after Paul left and started telling these young, impressionable Galatian believers, "Jesus is good, but Jesus is not enough. You need Jesus plus circumcision." And to Paul, that was not a minor theological adjustment. That was an attack on the gospel itself. It comes down to a simple question: Are we saved by believing or by achieving? Paul said by believing. The Judaizers said by achieving. And Paul would not budge. Not one inch.

### **We Were Slaves**

Do you remember what we learned from Galatians 4? Paul uses a striking illustration. He says that an heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, even though he owns everything. He has handlers and tutors and managers. He cannot go where he wants, do what he wants, enjoy what is rightfully his. And Paul says that is exactly what we were before Christ. We were enslaved to the elementary principles of this world. Whether you came from a religious background or a completely irreligious one, the principle is the same. You were trying to measure up. Trying to earn your place. Trying to establish an identity by your own merit. Some of you tried rule keeping. Some of you threw all the rules aside. But neither works. Rule keeping always fails because you can never be sure you have done enough. And throwing the rules aside leaves you like Solomon, who had it all and tried it all and cried, I hated life. Both roads lead to the same dead end. That is who we were. Slaves.

### **But Now We Are Sons**

And then came the most beautiful words in the whole book. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. That word redeem has roots in the Exodus. Just as Moses led God's people out of slavery in Egypt, God sent the true and greater liberator, the Lord Jesus Christ,

to redeem us from eternal slavery. Moses risked his life. God sent his Son to lose his life. And the result is not just that we are free. The result is that we are adopted. We are sons and daughters of the living God.

And here is the part I love. God did not stop there. He not only sent his Son to give us sonship, he sent his Spirit into our hearts so that we can experience our sonship every single day. Paul says God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts crying, Abba, Father. Think about what that means. Your heavenly Father does not just want you to know in your head that you are his child. He wants you to feel it. He wants you to experience it. He sent his Spirit precisely for that purpose.

I think about a little child walking hand in hand with their dad. He has got your hand, you have got his, and it is wonderful. But from time to time the child lifts both arms up, wanting to be scooped up, wanting to be held, wanting to be told, I love you, nothing is going to change that. And the dad scoops the child up, spins him around, and says, I am your dad. I love you. That is never changing. That is what the Holy Spirit does in your life. He keeps assuring you, reminding you, you are not a slave anymore. You are a son. You are a daughter. Both natures are in us, the nature of the slave and the nature of the son. The slave nature is afraid, anxious, always performing, always worried about being cast out. But the son nature operates from security and intimacy with the Father. And the Spirit's job is to remind you every single day which one you are.

### **Stand Firm in Your Freedom**

So if that is true, if Christ has truly set us free, what do we do with that freedom? Paul is very clear. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. That word stand firm is a command. It is active. It requires something from you. Because the yoke of slavery is always trying to slip back over your shoulders. So stand firm. And when someone comes along and starts cutting in on your race, when someone starts telling you that Jesus is not enough, that you need Jesus plus something, you hold your ground. Because a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough. A tiny compromise in doctrine leads to a total collapse of faith. The gospel of grace is a hill to die on.

### **Walk by the Spirit**

But we cannot just stand firm in our own strength. That is why Paul takes us into Galatians 5 and talks about walking by the Spirit. Because there is a war going on inside every one of us. The desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit are in constant conflict. Charles Dickens once said he felt as though there were two people living inside him, one who knew what was good and one who chose to do

otherwise. And Dostoevsky replied, you only have two? That is the human condition. And Paul names it with devastating honesty. I do not do the good I want to do, and the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing. Sound familiar?

But here is what I want you to hear. The presence of that struggle is not a sign that you are failing. It is proof that you are alive. Do you hate your own sin? Does it grieve you when you fall? That struggle is evidence of your divine heritage. Those who have no struggle with sin are not struggling because they are not fighting. But you are fighting. So keep fighting.

And as you fight, the Spirit produces fruit in your life. So every morning when you rise, you say, Holy Spirit, lead me today. Keep me in step with you. And step by step, God will take you from where you are to where he always intended you to be.

### **Bear One Another's Burdens**

And all of that life in the Spirit spills over into how we treat one another. This is Galatians 6. If someone is caught in a sin, those who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. We carry each other's burdens. And real help costs something. Real love involves sacrifice. You cannot truly help someone carry a heavy load without some of that weight falling on you.

### **Glory Only in the Cross**

And now we come to the end. The final words of this magnificent little book. Paul says, may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And Paul says through the cross the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. We do not go to the same places. We do not run with the same crowd. We do not live the same way. The world is behind us and the cross is before us.

And in verse 17, Paul gives us one final image that I cannot get out of my head. He says, I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. Branded for Christ. The Judaizers were so proud of that little mark of circumcision. Paul says, let me show you something. Look at my face, beaten. Look at my back, thirty-nine lashes. Look at my legs, stoned and left for dead. My whole body is marked from head to toe with the evidence of my loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what it looks like to be branded for Christ.

### **What We Take Away**

So as we close this book for the last time, let these four truths go with you wherever you go.

The first is the impossibility of salvation by self-effort. You cannot work your way to heaven. You cannot be good enough. You cannot do enough. Nobody will ever be saved until they come to the end of themselves and say, Lord, unless you save me, I will not be saved.

The second is the constant danger of doctrinal compromise. The truths of this book are under attack today just as much as they were in Paul's day. It is not always the attack from outside that is most dangerous. It is the quiet compromise from within. We must be willing to stand for the gospel even when it costs us something. It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error.

The third is the absolute necessity of God's grace. Church attendance is good. Bible reading is good. Prayer is good. Serving others is good. But none of those things can forgive a single sin. Our salvation is not partly grace and partly works. It is not mostly grace with a little bit of works added in. It is all of grace, all of the time.

And the fourth is the surpassing value of Christian freedom. You have been set free. Free from the guilt of sin, free from the power of sin, free from the endless exhausting performance of trying to earn what God already freely gives. You are not a slave anymore. You are a son. You are a daughter. You have been adopted into the family of God with full rights. You can call him Abba, Father. You can come to him any time. And you serve him not because you have to, but because you want to.

So let this ring out loud and clear as we finish. All of grace. All of the time. Our salvation is all of God and all of grace, purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross and confirmed by his victorious resurrection from the dead. We glory in the cross. We preach the cross. We stake our lives on the cross.

May we never, not for a single day, forget what we have learned. And may the free grace of God thrill our hearts and set us free to serve Jesus Christ until he comes again.

Amen.