

Scripture: Galatians 1:1-10; 2:15-21 LD 15:39, 16:43-44
Singing: 73:1, 2, 5, 6 – 190:1-4 – 392:1, 2, 4 – 83:1-3

How then can man be justified with God?
Or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? Job 25:4

- A. God's Gospel is the answer on Bildad's questions
1. God's Gospel has proven to be what it promises to be: *salvation!*
 2. God's provision is His Son Jesus Christ as Paul introduces in Gal. 1:3-5
 - a. observe how both the Father and the Son *gave*
 - b. observe the purpose of Jesus' coming
 - c. observe how salvation is the 'will of God'

The Benefits of Jesus' Cross Death (1)

I. He took our curse to the cross II. He takes our old man to the cross

Introduction on Galatians' main themes

- A. Galatians Paul's first & fiercest letter
1. The two main themes
 2. Galatians were deserting Jesus' Gospel to embrace false Gospel (1:6; 3:1)
- B. Paul's reaction is two-fold
1. He is astonished (vs. 6)
 - a. grammar of 'so soon removed' is *so soon deserting*
 - b. they were not just duped victims: 3:1
 - c. their example is our warning: *if not according to Scripture, reject*
 2. He proclaims apostolic curse w/ strong language (1:8-9): *why so strong?*
 - a. God's glory is at stake in any perversion of the Gospel
 - b. Salvation of souls is at stake because Christ-plus unnerves the Gospel
- C. What was the error taught and how does that relate to us?

1. In short: *error taught that Jesus Christ's Finished was not complete*

2. Some variations of 'other Gospels which are not another'

a. Galatians' Gospel: *Christ plus ceremonies*

b. Colossians' Gospel: *Christ plus revelations*

c. Roman Catholic Church's Gospel: *Christ plus good works*

d. Experiential Gospel: *Christ plus experiences*

3. Biblical Gospel: Confession of Faith, art 22; Lord's Day 15, 23

LIVING THESE TRUTHS ...

A. How will you as sinner be just, reconciled and accepted with your holy God?

1. Gal. 2:15-16 is God's Gospel answer

a. Will you accept that you are a hell-worthy sinner?

b. Will you totally look away from yourself as the basis of salvation?

c. Will you place your trust in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation?

d. Will you believe God's declaration that all who trust in Jesus Christ are justified?

The law is a good thing. But when the discussion is about justification, then it no time to drag in the Law. When we discuss justification, we ought to speak of Christ and the benefits He has brought us. We do not mean that the Law is bad.

Only it is not able to justify us. To be at peace with God, we have need of a far better mediator than Moses or the Law. We must know that we are nothing. We must understand that we are merely beneficiaries and recipients of the treasures of Christ. (Luther on Galatians)