

Acts # 63 “The Bullies Lose” *Galatians 2:1-10*

Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the cross, on the basis of propitiation.

God is actually freed from the confinements of His own perfect character to do something for us.

So grace is God’s freedom to express His love to mankind without jeopardizing any part of His essence.

The cross freed God to save us and to save us permanently.

Therefore, grace is the plan of God, grace is the work of God, the expression of God’s perfection.

Grace means very simply that God does all the work and man does all of the benefiting without work.

Paul had it in his mind to take Titus long before he went to Jerusalem because Titus was a new believer but an up and coming strong believer and there was no doubt about his powerful testimony due to his fantastic discernment of biblical truth and his ability to make a persuasive point.

Therefore, Paul took Titus as a proof that God saves people whether they have been circumcised or not.

It was God’s will for Paul to go and it was God’s will to take Titus because here is where a great issue must be resolved.

Paul had a private conference with the church leaders and in it he explained exactly how he’d been preaching the Gospel of grace — that Jesus Christ is the issue, not sin and that salvation was had through faith plus nothing, so he was not emphasizing circumcision for salvation and above all, not telling anyone to keep the law for spirituality.

Liberty starts at the cross where we are freed from the slave market of sin.

Our freedom was purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ and now we are in operation grace which is the basis of all true freedom.

Grace always equals freedom and bondage in contrast, is any human merit system; any system of trying to gain the attention of God by works or good deeds.

These people came in to spy out Paul’s freedom in the plan of God with the intention of destroying his liberty and that of anyone associated with him.

In the recognizing of Paul’s authority and his message, legalism was permanently crippled, so the legalists went underground to bother Paul for the rest of his life.

That’s why Paul wrote *Galatians* because these same legalists Paul defeated in Jerusalem followed him into all the Galatian cities, after he would leave.

They were never able to face Paul but they always followed him and many of the Pauline

epistles were written because of these legalists.

So, the Gospel was deposited into Paul's account as it is also deposited with every believer to be withdrawn from and shared with the world.

These legalists were constantly putting pressure on Paul but from their attacks, hostility, maligning and judging, all the great Pauline epistles were written.

So, we profit by these legalists who meant it all to be cursing but God turned it all into blessing!

They meant to destroy Paul and his teaching but all they did was cause him to write letters which are part of the Word of God and instead of destroying Paul's teaching, they became the means of continuing his message for 2,000 years so far and counting and that's the 'all things working together for good' principle for sure.

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Under the principle of grace where God provides salvation for the human race, the Designer or author of the plan is perfect and a perfect plan means that God must not only design it but He must also execute it.

If man gets the energy of the flesh in anywhere, then you have legalism, you have works and man's works cannot save him or make him spiritual.

The second great problem found in Galatians is spirituality by works, like fasting, taboos, beating ourselves up for Christ and so on.

None of these things will provide spirituality and yet many are acceptable in certain circles of Christianity today.

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