

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

October 9, 2022

Jesus' Sacrifice is Sufficient (Galatians 1-3)

In the first three lessons of our series on "The Mission of the Church," we have spent a lot of time talking about truth. Jesus governs with His Truth. His Church is built upon His Truth. The Church is instructed to uphold His Truth. This morning, while we take a pause from the series, let's consider the question of how do we know His teaching is actually the truth (**John 14:6-7**)? In the first century, the churches of Galatia were dealing with the same question. They were being pressured by Judaizing teachers to keep the ritualistic requirements of the Law of Moses, therefore denying the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice to save them. By following these teachers, they were deserting the truth that Paul had originally preached to them during his missionary journeys (**Gal 1:6-10**).

The church today is also facing a full-frontal assault, not from Judaizing teachers, but from a culture that says there is no such thing as truth, there is no "right" way, there are multiple paths to God, and that we should be tolerant of all who think differently than us. If we buy into this philosophy, and water down our religious life to where it is indistinguishable from our culture, then we are not only denying the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice, but also that faith in that sacrifice is the only way to receive salvation from God.

Why should we not look elsewhere? How can we know that God's plan of salvation by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus is the only way? The reasons that Paul gave to the Galatians are still relevant for our situation today.

(1) I _____ P _____ - Paul argues that his personal instruction on the truth of Jesus Christ came directly from God (**Gal 1:11-24**). There was no opportunity for the message to be corrupted by man, because there was no intermediary. Paul then goes on to explain that when he finally had a chance to sit down with Peter and James in Jerusalem, they "added nothing to me" (**Gal 2:1-10**). This means that his message and their message were exactly the same. How is this possible? The only explanation is that they learned it from the same source. Peter had been told by Jesus that God's Holy Spirit would "teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (**John 14:26**). Expanding this thought even further, what else could explain how all of the diverse writers of the New Testament could write in ways that don't contradict each other?



"The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

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GOD IS MY SHELTER AND STRENGTH
IN HIM I FIND MY PEACE AND REST
WITHOUT HIM I HAVE NO LIFE
HE PUT ME ALWAYS ON THE RIGHT PATH
WHEN HE FORGIVES MY SIN I KNOW
I SEEK HIS JOY AND COMFORT THOUGH
AND THE DECISIONS THAT I MAKE
ARE BASED ON HIM AND HIM ALONE
GOD, I AM THIRSTY FOR YOUR HELP
YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE
MY HEART HAS BEEN REVEALED TO YOU
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE AND TRUE

(2) I _____ P _____ - Next Paul reasons that the message he taught to the Galatians was attested to by signs and wonders that could not be denied. He told them “It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was portrayed as crucified” (**Gal 3:1**). It is unlikely any of these Christians in Galatia had personally witnessed the crucifixion, but what that had seen were many miracles performed by the hands of Paul (**Acts 14:3, 8**). Peter had explained on the day of Pentecost that the message from Jesus Himself was “attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst” (**Acts 2:22**). The Hebrews writer said of the “great salvation” that “God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will” (**Heb 2:4**).

(3) I _____ P _____ - Paul also says that the plan God delivered through Jesus Christ had been in place from the very beginning. Many will say that God’s original plan failed (the Law of Moses), so he had to develop a new plan (faith in Jesus Christ). However, the promise of salvation through faith came during the time of Abraham, prior to the giving of the Law to Moses. Paul said that God had “preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham” (**Gal 3:8**) and that “if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs of the promise.” (**Gal 3:29**). God’s plans are not like the plans of man. His plans are infinite and they never fail (**Acts 2:22-24; Rom 31-22**).

(4) I _____ P _____ - Finally, Paul contends that anything other than submitting to Christ is impossible. We cannot live a life good enough to earn our salvation (**Gal 2:15-21; 3:10-14**). Paul stated the same thing over and over again in his letters (**Rom 3:22-23**) as did many other New Testament writers (**James 2:10-11**).

PRAYER LIST

- Elizabeth’s grandmother **Carol Saling** was diagnosed with cancer
- **Bill Gillock** is home doing better
- We rejoice with **Kristine Garrett** as her cancer continues to improve
- **Maria Hunter Harrington**, a friend of the Billingsleys, has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington, Carolyn Pennington** and **Judy Grissom**, relatives of the Reeds, have breast cancer. **Vicki Reed** has been diagnosed with Myeloma as well
- **Donna Rawls Head** has cancer
- **Mike Smith** is recovering from heart surgery
- Continue to pray for: those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kim Waller, Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Gaynell Walker, Rosemary Douglas, Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (October 9, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: J. Gupton
Prayer: L. Gregory

WORSHIP

Read: E. Walker
Wait On Table: M. Reed
Serve: J. Walker, D. Demonbreun
Prayer: D. Billingsley