

First Grace, then the Peace

Galatians 1:1-5

Hi, I'm _____, I'm a Recovering Pharisee.

You may not want to admit it, but, yes, you are. I am as well. The pharisees were _____ of the religiously faithful. They attended worship, faithful in their _____, devout, _____ people. However, they were _____. Why? Because, they believed that what God did for them depended upon what _____ did for Him. They _____, they _____ and kept the _____ as though their salvation _____.

Philip Ryken states a pharisee believes God loves them but, secretly, they suspect His love is _____. They end up living a _____-based life that actually denies the _____ of God. Theologically speaking, the pharisee bases his _____ on his _____. Martin Luther did the same thing and was troubled that whatever he did was not _____.

I. Paul's Authority

The apostle Paul had to establish his apostleship with the Galatians. No denominational authority gave it to him, nor did it come from any man. He was called by the Risen Christ. Paul also had others whom he cited that _____ him. They supported him.

He wrote _____ books in the NT all have some form of commendation....except for _____. The book of Galatians is that book.

II. Paul's Theology

Two of the most important words to help recovering pharisees are _____ and _____. One is positional _____, the other is practical, _____. The false teachers were corrupting Paul's doctrine by offering the _____ as a means to salvation. It involved gentiles having first to become _____, then convert to _____. Grace alone had given them _____ but it was at risk because of their dalliance with

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legalism. The compromise of grace _____ leads to the loss of _____.

Another important point is that the resurrection is not in itself, the _____. Why? It didn't _____ our sin. The crucifixion is vitally important for this reason. Ryken offers:

A. It reveals the _____ of Jesus.

His death was _____. Jesus said "I lay down my life, that I may take it up again. No one takes my life from me."

B. It reveals the _____ of the cross.

The reason or purpose of the cross was "_____." He became our _____. His death, according to Ryken, enabled God to forgive us by satisfying his pure _____.

C. It reveals the _____ of the cross.

Normally, when we think of the cross, we usually think of the _____. He was crucified also to _____ us from this evil age.

D. It reveals the _____ of the cross.

This execution of Jesus was not an _____ thing or an _____. It was a part of God's plan for sinners. Peter and Paul both point to God's eternal plan in His mind from eternity. The cross reveals the absolute sinfulness of sin but also the _____ love of God.

So, do you think that your acts of piety are more powerful than the _____ of Christ? Do you think there's any _____ in some other way?

III. Paul's Doxology

It is here that Paul would normally offer some giving of thanks or commendation to his readers but not here. He interrupts his greeting with praise to God.

He urges these churches to give praise to God _____, for His Grace _____, by Faith _____ for God's Glory _____. How do we know these things? By Scripture _____.

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The first thing for a recovering pharisee to do is to recognize his work has no comparison to the Work of Christ on His Cross.